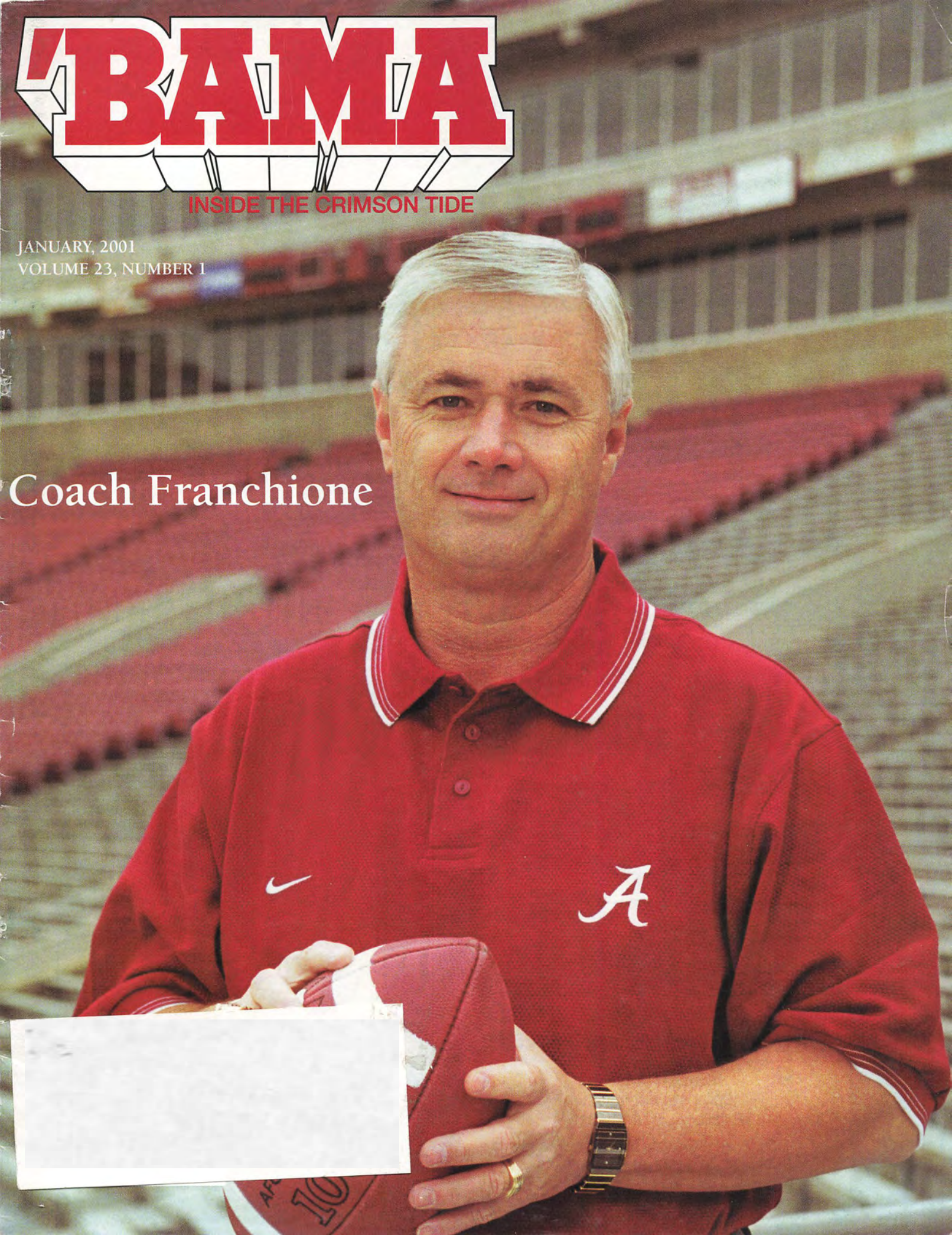


INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

JANUARY, 2001  
VOLUME 23, NUMBER 1

Coach Franchione





# Daniel A. Moore



©2000 New Life Art, Inc.

## University Market

University Market is a look back at the artist's work while attending the University of Alabama as well a nostalgic reflection of this popular 1970's Tuscaloosa landmark. Even though the appearance of the building has changed, the old market can live in our hearts forever with this beautiful, signed and numbered fine art print. Limited to 1,100 prints.

Regular Edition: **\$125.00**  
Signed and Numbered edition of 1,000

Artist's Proofs: **\$250.00**  
Signed and Numbered edition of 100

**M·E·M REPLAY™**

VISIT US ON THE WEB:

**www.newlifeart.com**



Framed size:  
13" x 13.5"

Push the button  
to hear the radio  
play-by-play as  
it happened!

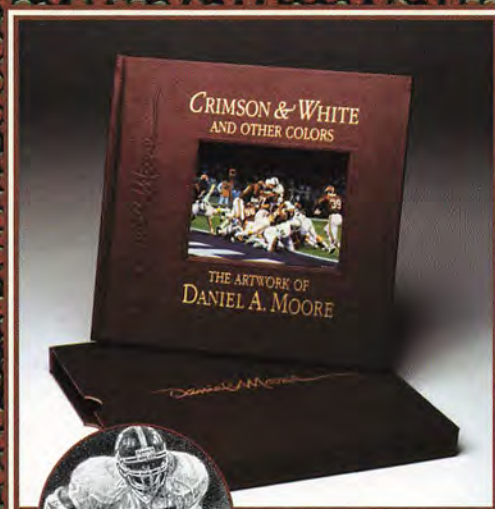
The Sack w/ voice module... **\$125.00**

The Kick w/ voice module.... **\$125.00**

**New Life Art, Inc.**

3600 Lornaridge Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35216

Shipping and handling charges will apply.  
Alabama residents add 8% sales tax.  
All orders subject to availability.



\*\*Example of original pencil  
drawing featured in the  
Artist's Edition books. Each  
book contains a different drawing!

Limited Edition: (as shown) **\$279.00**  
Leather bound edition of 1,979 S/N books.

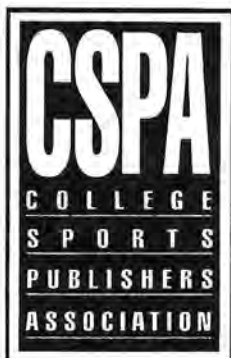
Artist's Edition: **\$2,000.00**  
\*\*Leather bound edition of 79 S/N books.

Call anytime to order:

MC / VISA / AMEX

**1-800-735-2787**





# Order the college sports publication that gets you inside coverage of your favorite team!!

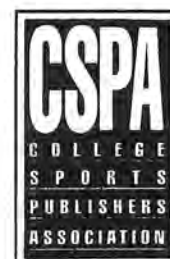
You enjoy following your favorite team no matter where you live so why not give your friends and family the same great opportunity. Every publication listed provides player features, game recaps, opponent previews, recruiting updates and much, much more. **Order your subscription today!**

02. ARIZONA - Cat Tracks 32 issues, 2 yearbooks, \$59	cattracks.net	29. MISSISSIPPI - Ole Miss Spirit 32 issues, \$40	omspirit.com
03. ARKANSAS - Hawgs Illustrated 19 magazines, 2 yearbooks, \$44.90	hawgsillustrated.com	30. MISSOURI - Inside Mizzou Sports 20 issues, \$44.95	insidemizzou.com
04. AUBURN - Inside the Auburn Tigers 10 magazines, 11 newsletters, \$35	auburnsports.com	31. NEBRASKA - Huskers Illustrated 17 issues, 1 yearbook, \$44.95	huskersillustrated.com
05. BOSTON COLLEGE - Eagle Action 12-13 issues, \$34.95	bostoncollege.rivals.com	32. NORTH CAROLINA - Carolina Blue 35 issues, \$39.95	carolinablue.com
06. BYU - Cougar Sports Magazine 12 issues, \$23.95	cougarsportsmag.com	33. NORTH CAROLINA STATE - Wolfpacker 18 issues, 2 yearbooks, \$35.95	thewolfpacker.com
07. CENTRAL FLORIDA - Into the Knights 10 issues, 1 yearbook, \$25.95	intotheknights.com	34. NOTRE DAME - Blue & Gold Illustrated 20 issues, \$39.95	blueandgold.com
08. CINCINNATI - Bearcat Sports Digest 20 issues, \$32.95	ispsports.com	35. OHIO STATE - Buckeye Sports Bulletin 30 issues, \$50	buckeyesports.com
09. COLORADO - Buffalo Sports News 20 issues, 1 yearbook, \$39	buffalosportsnews.com	36. OKLAHOMA - Sooners Illustrated 17 magazines, 1 yearbook, \$42.90	soonersillustrated.com
10. CONNECTICUT - Husky Blue & White 14 issues, 1 yearbook, \$35		37. OKLAHOMA STATE - O-State Sports Report 16 issues, 1 yearbook, \$34.90	gypokes.com
11. DUKE - Blue Devil Weekly 25 issues, 1 yearbook, \$31.95		38. OREGON - Fighting Ducks Review 24 issues, \$45.50	fightingducks.com
12. EAST CAROLINA - Pirates' Chest 20 issues, \$25		39. PENN STATE - Blue White Illustrated 28 issues, \$42	bluwhite.net
13. FLORIDA - Gator Bait 32 issues, 2 yearbooks, \$49.95	gatorbait.net	40. PURDUE - Gold & Black Illustrated 26 issues, 2 yearbooks, \$49.95	goldandblack.com
14. FLORIDA STATE - Osceola 34 issues, \$48	osceolanews.com	41. SOUTH CAROLINA - Spurs & Feathers 35 issues, \$34	spursandfeathers.com
15. GEORGIA - Georgia Bulldog Magazine 13 magazines, 17 newsletters, \$30	georgiadogs.com	42. SYRACUSE - The Big Orange 4 issues, \$44	superorange.com
16. GEORGIA TECH - Rambling Wreck 13 issues, \$24.95	ispsports.com	43. TEMPLE - OwlScoop 18 issues, \$34.95	owlscoop.com
17. INDIANA - Inside Indiana 26 issues, 2 yearbooks, \$47	insideindiana.com	44. TENNESSEE - Rocky Top News 33 magazines, 1 yearbook, \$43	rockytop.com
18. IOWA - Voice of the Hawkeyes 23 issues, 2 yearbooks, \$42.90	voiceofthehawkeyes.com	45. TENNESSEE - Volunteers Magazine 25 issues, 2 guides, \$34.97	utsports.com
19. IOWA STATE - Cyclone Illustrated 18 issues, \$44.95	cycloneillustrated.com	46. TEXAS - Horns Illustrated 20 issues, 1 yearbook, \$42.90	hornillustrated.com
20. KANSAS - Jayhawk Insider 20 issues, \$44.95	jayhawkinsider.com	47. TEXAS A&M - Ags Illustrated 17 issues, 1 yearbook, \$42.90	agsillustrated.com
21. KANSAS STATE - Purple Pride 20 issues, \$44.95	purplepride.com	48. TEXAS TECH - Red Raider Sports 16 issues, 1 yearbook, \$34.90	redraidersports.com
22. KENTUCKY - The Cats' Pause 35 issues, \$47.50	catspause.com	49. VIRGINIA - Cavalier Corner 12 issues, \$27.95	cavaliercorner.com
23. LSU - Tiger Rag 36 issues, 2 yearbooks, \$52	tigermag.com	50. VIRGINIA TECH - Hokie Huddler 33 issues, \$37.95	hokiesportsinfo.com
24. LOUISVILLE - SportsReport 32 issues, 2 yearbooks, \$43.95	cardinalsports.com	51. WAKE FOREST - Gold Rush 16 issues, \$29.95	ispsports.com
25. MARYLAND - Terrapin Times 12 issues, \$39.95	terrapintimes.com	52. WASHINGTON - Sports Washington 17 issues, \$34.95	
26. MIAMI - Canes Sport 21 issues first-class mail, \$49.95	thecanes.com	53. WEST VIRGINIA - Blue & Gold News 32 issues, \$32.95	bluegoldnews.com
27. MICHIGAN - Wolverine 26 issues, 1 yearbook, \$44.95	thewolverine.com	54. WISCONSIN - Inside Wisconsin 25 issues, \$39.95	insidewisc.com
28. MICHIGAN STATE - Spartan Magazine 18 issues, \$36.95	spartanmag.com	55. **MARSHALL - Herd Insider 27 issues \$38	
		56. **NEW PUBLICATION**	

## CALL NOW TO ORDER

### 1-800-276-8401

Number and Name of Publication: No. <input type="text"/>		Name: <input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/>		Address: <input type="text"/>	
Amount Enclosed: \$ <input type="text"/>		City: <input type="text"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa		State: <input type="text"/> Zip: <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/>	
Card No.: <input type="text"/>		Phone: <input type="text"/>	
Exp. Date: <input type="text"/>		<b>ALA</b>	
Mail to: CSPA SUBSCRIPTIONS, P.O. Box 692, Holmes, PA 19043-0692			





P.O. Box 866104  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0054  
(205) 345-5074  
FAX (205) 345-1260  
E-Mail: BamaMag@aol.com  
For subscriptions: 1-800-713-2261

## Editorial & Staff Directory

Publisher: Lynne McNair  
Editor: Kirk McNair  
Assistant to the Publisher: Vera Dowdle  
Circulation Director: Mary Ellen Palardy  
Photo Editor: Barry Fikes  
Associate Editor: J.E. Lisby  
Artist: Dan Proctor

### Contributing Writers:

Tom Culpepper, Peter Edmund,  
James Edwards, Donna Fromme,  
John Hayden, Jason Houston,  
Ted James, Jess Nicholas,  
Andrew Varble II, Tim Watts

### Contributing Photographers:

Butch Dill, Kaka Gidley, Kent Gidley,  
Spectrum-Southeast, University of Alabama

### Computer Consultant:

Stuart McNair, The McNairs@hotmail.com

## Publishing Information

'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE (USPS 489-470; ISSN 0195-0975) is published monthly for ten months from August to May by College Sports Publications, Inc., 2116 8th Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401. Editorial office is located at 2116 8th Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401-2134.

POSTMASTER: Send change of address to 'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE, P.O. Box 866104, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0054.

Periodicals postage paid at Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and at additional mailing office. Subscription rate is \$35.00 per year. Foreign subscriptions \$10.00 per additional. Change of address: Six weeks advance notice, and old address as well as new required. Address all correspondence to: Post Office Box 866104, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35486-0054. Not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or photographs unless accompanied by return postage. Copyright © 2001 College Sports Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

'BAMA is an independent publication, not associated with The University of Alabama.

CHARTER MEMBER

# CSPA

College Sports  
Publishers Association

P.O. Box 13515  
(352) 372-1215

Gainesville, FL 32604  
FAX (352) 372-2283

*Keep up with the Crimson Tide  
at any time from your telephone!*



## Hotline

**Two Ways to Dial!**  
**1-900-860-1979**

**or Toll Free at 1-800-390-5010\***

**\*Same Great Information. Same Cost.**

**With our new credit card system you can access the 'BAMA  
HOTLINE from hotels, pay phones, work,  
and 900 Line-Blocked numbers.  
VISA and MasterCard accepted.**

**Charge is \$1.59 per minute**

**Callers under 18 obtain parents' permission  
24-Hour Service**

**Calls may be made from TouchTone or rotary telephone**

### RECRUITING INFORMATION

Updates (Selection 5) by 8 p.m. CT Sundays  
Daily Updates January 7-Signing Day, February 7

### UPDATES ON ALL BAMA SPORTS

Updates (Selection 4) within an hour of the completion of men's basketball games and weekly updates by 8 p.m. CT Sundays

### FOOTBALL UPDATES

Daily updates (Selection 2) and Weekly updates (Selection 3)  
will resume with spring practice in March

Football information until then will be on the All-Sports Update (Selection 4)

A service of 'BAMA Magazine  
2116 8th Street Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401 (205) 345-5074



## Contents

On The Cover: New Head Football Coach Dennis Franchione makes himself at home in Bryant-Denny Stadium. Coach Fran has been given the task of getting Bama back on a winning track. Franchione has had success everywhere he's been. See Page 6.

University of Alabama Photo by Kent Gidley



Page 12

### Dennis Franchione: Alabama Goes For A Winner

6

Dennis Franchione may not have been Alabama's first choice for football coach, but he has been a very popular choice to succeed Mike DuBose. **by Kirk McNair**

### NCAA Probe: Nothing Good About Investigation

10

NCAA investigators have been in Tuscaloosa to look into some questions regarding the football program. Details are not known, and neither is it known when it will be resolved. **by Kirk McNair**

### The Seniors: Despite Finish, There Was Success

12

Although the 2000 football season was not a good one for Alabama, Crimson Tide seniors had successes in their careers at The University. **by J.E. Lisby**



Page 14

### Gerald Wallace: He's Gone From Last To First

14

Hard as it may be to believe, Alabama freshman star Gerald Wallace was once the last player chosen to play in basketball games. Now he's leading Bama into the national limelight. **by Jason Houston**

### Baseball Outlook: Wells Has Hopes For Rebound

16

Scorecard sales should be up at Alabama baseball games this year since 16 players are gone from last season. Nevertheless, Head Coach Jim Wells feels good about his upcoming squad, which won't have the expectations last year's team had...and failed to meet. **by Peter Edmund**



Page 16

### Softball Outlook: Going For Repeat To World Series

20

Coach Pat Murphy's softball team had a dream season in 2000, winning more games than any team in America and reaching the Women's College World Series. He has a good nucleus of returning stars this season. **by John Hayden**

### Football Prospects: New Staff Making Up For Lost Time

23

There have already been successes as Dennis Franchione's staff took over the football recruiting chores in early December. Here is a look at where 2001 signees may come from. **by James Edwards**



Page 23

### Early Signees: More Future Players Announced

26

While many new signees in sports other than football were announced by Alabama last month, there are additional announcements this month of future Crimson Tide performers. **by Donna Fromme**

### The Departments

Football Prospects	24
Scorecard	28
Winter Sports Schedules	30



# Alabama Goes For A Winner

by Kirk McNair

New head football coach has excellent reputation

Shortly after Dennis Franchione was introduced as Alabama's new head football coach on December 4, a Crimson Tide fan sent an internet message: "Mal Moore has hit a grand slam home run, and the ball is still rising."

Alabama Athletics Director Mal Moore faced his biggest task after deciding that Mike DuBose would not be retained as head coach following this season. He had to find a replacement. While it might seem that it would be easy to locate and secure a top candidate who wanted to be Alabama's coach, there were obstacles. For one, Alabama's football program is being investigated by the NCAA (see Page 10). There is also the fact that four men had held the job in the 18 seasons since Coach Paul Bryant retired at the end of the 1982 season, an indication that no one can live up to the lofty football goals of The University. There is also the challenge of rebuilding a team that went 3-8 in 2000.

What Moore didn't expect is that there might be some unknown problem with get-

ting his first choice. Moore first went after Butch Davis, head football coach at Miami. There were all sorts of statements from both sides about "no contact," but the way these things work is that an intermediary (or more than one) make sure that everything is satisfactory to both sides. Then the offer is made and accepted. That seemed to be the way it was set up between Moore and Davis. Enter the National Football League. There is going to be a new NFL team in Houston next year, and they want Davis to be their coach. Davis was not going to move from Miami to Alabama for one year, and so he pulled the rug out from under Moore at the last minute. It is likely that Moore's second choice was Frank Beamer of Virginia Tech, but like a lot of men (including Davis) rumored to be in Alabama's picture, Beamer got a new contract and wouldn't consider the Alabama job, which was not offered. A Miami connection referred to "the Alabama effect" of making so many coaches millionaires this year. Even Tommy Bowden of Clemson, who was never in Moore's plans, wangled a new contract.

There were three other men considered by Moore. They were Walt Harris of Pittsburgh, former Alabama player Mike Riley of the San Diego Chargers, and Franchione. Of those, only Franchione was offered. And he accepted despite the fact he had similar offers to remain at TCU, where he had rebuilt a program left in shambles by Pat Sullivan, and at

Arizona State, which is in an area Franchione and his wife Kim are fond of.

Although it's difficult to compare contracts since as of mid-December the attorneys for Franchione and The University had not yet finished all the details, it is believed Franchione's pact will be for at least five years, as many as seven if the NCAA imposes sanctions on the program, and will pay between \$1.1 and \$1.4 million per year. Those are similar numbers offered by TCU and Arizona State.

Beyond the contract for the head coach, the coaching change involves more than chump change. Franchione's assistants are likely to make more than DuBose's assistants did. There is also the matter of a \$1 million payout to TCU for taking their head coach. DuBose will be paid through February, 2002, some \$381,000. And his assistants will be paid through June unless they get new jobs, with three of those assistants (Recruiting Coordinator Ronnie Cottrell, Defensive Coordinator Ellis Johnson and Quarterbacks Coach Charlie Stubbs) being paid through June, 2002, unless they get new jobs.

Although Moore served as a search and selection committee of one, he kept University President Andrew Sorensen and appropriate members of the Board of Trustees apprised of his progress and intentions.

Franchione showed a nice sense of humor at his introductory press conference. He said that it didn't bother him that he may not have been Alabama's first choice. "Heck," he said, nodding towards his wife, "I wasn't even Kim's first choice. Alabama's my choice now. I'm excited about that."

He said he knew he had an opportunity to be selected when he "heard Alabama was looking for a big name coach. My name has 10 letters." He added, "That's how you get to be 'Coach Fran'," the name by which he's become known.

As for the details of his contract, he said, "I noticed a line that said win a lot of games and beat Auburn. Those seem more important than any of the numbers."

Dennis Franchione didn't worry about any negatives associated with the Alabama coaching job. He has faced tough tasks everywhere he's been, and he's always come out a winner. Moreover, he has a great appreciation for the tradition of college football. When Moore first approached

## The Franchione File

Name:	Dennis Franchione
Birthdate:	March 28, 1951
Birthplace:	Girard, Kansas
Wife:	Kim
Children:	Brad (26), Ashley (20), Libby (15)
Alma Mater:	Pittsburg (Kansas) State, 1973
Coaching Career:	Head Coach, Miller (Missouri) High School, 1973-74 Assistant Coach, Mulvane (Kansas) High School, 1975 Head Coach, Peabody (Kansas) High School, 1976-77 Assistant Coach, Kansas State, 1978-80 Head Coach, Southwestern (Kansas) College, 1981-82 (14-4-2) Offensive Coordinator, Tennessee Tech, 1983-84 Head Coach, Pittsburg (Kansas) State, 1985-89 (53-6-0) Head Coach, New Mexico, 1992-97 (33-36-0) Head Coach, TCU, 1998-2000 (25-10-0) Head Coach, Alabama, December 1, 2000-
College Record:	138-65-2 (67.8%)
Bowl Games:	1997 Insight.com 1998 Norwest Sun 1999 Mobile Alabama





Dennis Franchione, 49, is the new head football coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide. It is his intention to rebuild Bama into a national championship contender. Kent Gidley Photo

him and began to brief Franchione on his own background, Franchione reportedly said, "Coach Moore, you don't need to tell me who you are. I know." Franchione had been aware of Moore as Bryant's offensive coordinator in the 1970s and early 1980s and had once attended a coaching clinic where Moore was the featured speaker. And

in discussing the position with his wife, Franchione said, "Do you realize I'm going to be walking the same sideline Coach Bryant walked?"

When Franchione faced the Alabama press (and the entire state, since his press conference was carried live on television throughout Alabama), the audience included a num-

ber of former Crimson Tide players, including Bart Starr and Lee Roy Jordan, and former Tide Coach Gene Stallings. Franchione said, "This is a very exciting day for me. Anyone who knows me well knows that I have a very deep love and passion for college football and its traditions. And anytime you talk traditions in college football, you're going to talk about The University of Alabama. I want everyone to know that I intend to embrace every one of those traditions."

Franchione said he shares the goal of all Alabama followers, which is to win the national championship. Franchione designated himself "keeper of the keys" for a program he said belongs to the state, to the players, and to the lettermen who have gone before. And he emphasized that he would be the leader of that program.

He noted that he would aspire to uphold the tradition and success of two others who came from Texas, Paul Bryant (who was hired from Texas A&M) and Gene Stallings (who came to Bama from his ranch near Paris, Texas, after his pro football coaching career ended). Franchione noted that both Bryant and Stallings, as well as Wallace Wade and Frank Thomas, had coached Alabama to national championships.

Franchione turned down Moore's offer to fly him in to Tuscaloosa so he could tour the Alabama athletics facilities and then make a decision on the job. Franchione pointed out that buildings are "just bricks," and that the Alabama program was what interested him.

As to the NCAA situation, Franchione said he came into this job with his "eyes open" to that problem, but noted that every job opportunity comes with problems. "I have a great deal of confidence...that we've got the history and tradition and the strength to deal with those and come out in a positive way," he said. "We will have a plan to deal with that."

So much for those who said Alabama's championship tradition would not be a positive factor in securing a new coach. Franchione had previously embraced a TCU tradition, the long-standing battle cry of the Horned Frogs: "We'll fight until hell freezes over...and then we'll fight on the ice."

The 49-year-old Franchione has been very successful in his coaching career. After coaching at the high school level for three years, the Kansas native served as an assistant coach at Kansas State for three years. His first college job was at Southwestern College in Kansas (1981-





## FOOTBALL FAX

Get up-to-date information on football and recruiting with the 'BAMA FOOTBALL FAX. Daily recruiting reports begin Monday, January 8, and are provided daily, Monday through Friday, through the day following Signing Day, February 7. There will be subsequent reports after each spring practice day, then each Monday, Wednesday and Friday during football season. And anytime football news breaks a report is provided. You get accurate reports waiting for you when you reach your Fax machine each morning.

This exclusive for 'BAMA MAGAZINE subscribers is available for \$150 and your FOOTBALL FAX subscription carries an unconditional money back guarantee on the unused portion.

Your 'BAMA FOOTBALL FAX subscription is for one full year.

Recruiting reports are getting close, so don't delay. Subscribe today to 'BAMA FOOTBALL FAX. To subscribe, complete the form and mail to:

'BAMA FOOTBALL FAX  
P.O. Box 866104  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0054  
OR (credit card orders only)  
CALL 1-800-713-2261  
OR FAX (205) 345-1260

☐ Yes, I want FOOTBALL FAX.  
I enclose \$150.

☐ Check or money order  
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Sig. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

FAX \_\_\_\_\_

82), where he turned in a 14-4-2 record and won the conference championship. He then went to Tennessee Tech as offensive coordinator for two years.

Franchione first drew wide-spread attention as head coach of the Pittsburg (Kansas) State Gorillas, where he was two-time national coach of the year. His five-year (1985-89) record was 53-6.

In 1990-91 he was at Southwest Texas State, where his teams went 13-9.

In 1992 he took over a New Mexico team that had been the laughingstock of college football for half a decade. New Mexico had failed to win a game and had given up 94 points in a loss to Fresno State the year before Franchione took over. His first team went 3-8 and each team progressed until he turned in a 9-4 record in his final year. He was WAC Coach of the Year, finalist for national coach of the year, and gave New Mexico its first national ranking in 15 years. He had a 33-36 worksheet at New Mexico when TCU called.

The Horned Frogs had good reason to call. In 1997 TCU had a 1-10 record. In Coach Fran's first year, TCU had the nation's biggest turn-around in 1998, a 7-5 record. His teams went 25-10 the last three years. His TCU teams won 17 of their last 19 games, including 11 consecutive home games.

It's no reason that his former players, and even his former defensive coordinator, Gary Patterson, who replaced him as head coach at TCU, wanted Franchione to coach the Horned Frogs in the Mobile Bowl against Southern Miss. Franchione originally agreed to that plan, but that awkward situation ended about the time TCU went to Mobile for the game.

Although Franchione would have given every ounce he could have to the success of TCU in that game, his ties were cut when he accepted the Alabama position. And it was agreed that Patterson would coach that game. While most of the former TCU assistants worked with Patterson for that single game, Franchione's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach, Les Koenning, also passed on the Mobile Bowl since Patterson had selected an offensive coordinator.

**F**ranchione gives every evidence that he is a head coach. That is not the same as a football coach. Certainly he knows the Xs and Os. But Coach Fran, as he is known, is regarded even more for his administrative abilities than for his high-powered offensive schemes. (Incidentally, he's

not known at all for his defensive plan. He turns that over to a defensive coordinator. It has been said that his conversations with the defensive coordinator are limited to "What will you hold them to?" meaning how many points will his team give up to the next opponent.)

Franchione has said that Alabama's players will be expected to work hard, and his former TCU players (ironically in Mobile for a bowl game) attested to that promise. Franchione gave Tide players an example of what to expect when he told them in their first meeting that the three-a-day off-season weightroom workouts should be stepped up to "every day." (Speaking of the weightroom, which has been a matter of controversy for some time at Alabama, Franchione is likely to get a new facility in the future. But he made points with Moore when he said, "You can lift weights in the rain outdoors.") "You have to work for what you want," he said. He pointed out that when he arrived at TCU only four players could bench press over 400 pounds. Prior to this season, 55 of the 105 players on the reporting roster could bench press at least 400 pounds.

He doesn't ask more than he gives. His wife describes his work habits as "7-11" during the season. Kim Franchione says he normally leaves the house at 6 a.m. and doesn't get back till around midnight. Also, he expects similar commitment from his assistants.

Franchione said, "That's the only way I've gotten where I am today. I haven't had any silver spoons. I've just worked. I love the grind."

His practices have always been a model of efficiency, high-powered with no standing around. Teaching is done in film study and the practice field is for application of those studies. Those well-organized practice sessions are typical of his style. Each year he will present each player and coach with "the book," a planner for the entire year.

Franchione is not going to spend much time evaluating current players. He said that "Everyone will start with a clean slate."

He gives—and demands—loyalty from players and coaches. "I'm going to adopt them as my players and they're going to have to adopt me as their coach," Franchione said after his first meeting with his new team. "As soon as we start that process, we can begin building a team."

He said he and his coaches "exist for the players," that he wants them to excel on and off the field. He said he and his staff would begin the process of "putting together the



spirit of a team."

And there is no doubt who the leader is. Everything will be done the Franchione way. Discipline, he said, is a matter of "doing what you are supposed to do, when you are supposed to do it, and how you are supposed to do it."

Alabama, he said, would have the same characteristics of other teams he has coached. "Blocking and tackling still win football games," he said. He also said he would expect good effort from every player.

He said his teams have always been solid in the kicking game, played good defense, scored points, played with a degree of physical and mental toughness, and "have not beaten themselves," meaning a good turnover ratio.

This year's TCU squad led the nation in total defense, scoring defense and kickoff returns; was fourth in rushing offense and pass defense; seventh in rushing defense; 11th in scoring; 13th in turnover margin; 16th in net punting; and 23rd in total offense.

He also said that he will adjust his plan to fit the players, not vice versa as is frequently the case. That may be the reason Franchione was falsely labeled an option coach, even a wishbone coach, as in the past season he relied primarily on the running ability of Heisman Trophy finalist LaDainian Tomlinson.

He said his teams would be "multiple and flexible" on offense and defense. He said the team would be built around play-makers, those identified and those recruited.

## A Brief Look At The Franchione Football Staff

**A**lthough new Alabama Head Football Coach Dennis Franchione had not named a running backs coach to replace Mike Shultz, the rest of his staff was in place by mid-December after he selected ex-North Carolina Head Coach Carl Torbush to be defensive coordinator. Most of his staff joined him from TCU. Here is a brief look at the new Alabama football staff members:

**Charley North** is director of football operations. North offers 20 years of experience on the collegiate level and a total of 31 years in coaching the sport. He joined Franchione's TCU staff last March. Prior to TCU, North had spent the previous three seasons (1995-97) as the offensive line coach at Arkansas, the same capacity he had served for 16 campaigns (1979-94) with the University of Oklahoma. As director of football operations, North's broad range of responsibilities include office management and administration; game day responsibilities; liaison with various athletic and university departments; team travel; and—of most importance to Tide fans—recruiting operations.

**Les Koenning** is offensive coordinator. Koenning joined the TCU staff last year from Houston. At TCU he was passing game coordinator, but he was introduced at Alabama by Franchione as offensive coordinator. He is the lone staff member with an Alabama background, having served as a graduate assistant coach under Ray Perkins in 1984. The Texas graduate had served as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Houston in 1999. He had served the same capacity at Duke and also coached under Jimmy Johnson with the Miami Dolphins and as the wide receivers coach at Texas A&M.

**Carl Torbush** is defensive coordinator. The 49-year-old native of Knoxville, Tennessee, was recently fired at North Carolina after three years and a 17-18 record. He was defensive coordinator of the Tar Heels from 1988 through 1997. His 1995, 1996 and 1997 defenses led the ACC and his 1996 and 1997 units ranked among the nation's top five in every defensive category. Following the 1996 season he was named National Defensive Coordinator of the Year. Torbush has had coaching stops at Baylor (1975); Southeast Louisiana (1976-79); Louisiana Tech (1980-82 and 1987 as head coach); defensive coordinator at Ole Miss (1983-1986) and North Carolina (1988-97 as defensive coordinator, 1998-2000 as head coach).

**Kenny Pope** is receivers coach. A former Oklahoma Sooner standout, Pope has been coaching on the collegiate level since 1979 when he joined the staff at Lamar University. After spending two seasons there as the linebackers and kicking game coach, Pope moved to SMU (1981-86) as the Mustangs' wide receivers coach. Then, Pope spent four seasons (1987-90) as the defensive ends coach at Oklahoma State. In 1991, Pope joined the Mississippi State staff, staying there through 1994 as the linebackers coach. He returned to his alma mater the following season.

**Jim Bob Helduser** is offensive line coach. A native of Groves, Texas, the popular Helduser offers 19 years of previous assistant and head coaching experience at the collegiate level. He served six seasons on football staffs at Rice from 1979 to 1984. Helduser then spent 11 cam-

paigns, including the last five as the head coach, at Southwest Texas State. There, Helduser served the 1990-91 seasons under the direction of Franchione, before taking over as head coach the following year.

**Mike Tommerdahl** is tight ends and special teams coach. He waited a few more days before joining the new Crimson Tide staff. Tommerdahl's NCAA Division I-A coaching experience began at Wyoming in 1984 as a graduate assistant. After serving as the Cowboys' recruiting coordinator in 1986, Tommerdahl added tight end responsibilities to his duties there in 1987-89, spent one season (1990) as the offensive coordinator and tight ends coach, then four more (1991-94) as the offensive backfield coach. From Wyoming, Tommerdahl joined the Minnesota coaching staff in 1995 and moved to New Mexico in 1997.

**Mark Parks** is linebackers coach. One of the younger members of the new coaching staff, Parks has established himself as one of college football's brightest linebacking tutors during his ten seasons as an assistant at New Mexico and TCU. Parks tutored a talented TCU linebacker corps that produced an assortment of big plays. Before going to TCU, Parks coached at New Mexico from 1990-97. Parks, a schoolboy standout at Hiawatha, Kansas, was a four-year letterman and a three-year starter at tight end at Kansas from 1984-87.

**Stan Eggen** is defensive line coach. After one highly-successful year at New Mexico under Franchione, Eggen (EGG-un) was named the defensive line coach at TCU. Eggen was instrumental in molding TCU's defensive front into one of the finest in the Western Athletic Conference. Before joining Franchione at New Mexico, Eggen spent three campaigns (1994-96) as the defensive coordinator and inside linebackers coach at UNLV.

**Chris Thurmond** is defensive backs coach. He was serving his second stint with TCU before moving to Bama. He had previously served two years as secondary coach at Oklahoma. He had been secondary coach at TCU in 1995, but in his last assignment in the Frogs' 4-2-5 defense was responsible for cornerbacks. Thurmond established his reputation as a coach of deep defenders during his nine-year (1983-91) coaching stint with his alma mater, Tulsa.

**Ben Pollard** is strength and conditioning coach. The first name announced as a new member of the Alabama staff was that of TCU's strength and conditioning coach. Pollard arrived at TCU at the same time as Franchione, and in the course of three years they have developed what many claim is the strongest college team in the country. The TCU strength program has been so successful that it was featured in a pre-season article by ESPN: the Magazine. He began his career as a volunteer assistant while earning two degrees at Texas Tech. Pollard received his graduate degree in '89 and immediately became head strength coach at Sam Houston State, a division IAA school in Texas. Starting at first with only football, over the next nine years he developed programs for 14 other sports at the school while also teaching courses in the Kinesiology Department. Franchione lured him to TCU in 1998.



# Nothing Good About Investigation

by Kirk McNair

Focus is on football, but exact questions not known

One thing that is known absolutely about the recent visit of NCAA investigators to Tuscaloosa is this: It is never good to be investigated. The NCAA wanted to speak with selected Alabama football coaches, including former Head Coach Mike DuBose, and football players. Although there have been published reports that the matter is related to football recruiting, there is no announcement made by investigators or The University as to the exact nature of the probe.

When the four days of interviews ended on December 1, a day in which Athletics Director Mal Moore was otherwise engaged in the business of hiring a new football coach, the only pronouncement involved what might come next: Further interviews, an official inquiry, or nothing. A fourth possibility is that Alabama agrees there have been violations, proposes punishment, and both the NCAA and The University accept that summary judgment.

Although several university officials pointed out that there are no charges against Alabama, no one who can remember the Crimson Tide's first brush with NCAA justice can take much comfort.

Alabama also has to be wary because The University is in the middle of a five-year probationary period because of self-reported rules violations involving the Tide basketball program. That 1998 event resulted in Assistant Coach Tyrone Beaman being fired.

Alabama's most serious run-in with the NCAA came in an investigation begun in 1993 after a report that star cornerback Antonio Langham had signed with an agent. In that case The University was found guilty of a lack of institutional control. Although that charge was later rescinded with an apology, none of the severe penalties, including drastic loss of scholarships, were vacated.

This recent probe did not have a negative effect on Moore's efforts to entice Dennis Franchione to accept the Alabama head football coaching job, but it will affect the length of the contract Bama must give Franchione. Franchione said that during discussions with Moore, Alabama's athletics director was as open as he could be about the investigation.

An indication that Alabama may have committed some violations came from University President Dr. Andrew Sorensen, who said that the school had self-reported "allegations" to both the Southeastern Conference and the NCAA. Sorensen said Alabama policy was "articulated the day I came here to the faculty athletics representative and to all the coaches and to the athletics director: If you even suspect that there is a violation, I want you to tell me within 24 hours. I want you to then report it to the (SEC) commissioner and then to the NCAA—all within 24 hours."

The president added, "And we've done that in every instance, regarding all of the allegations that have been made."

That statement does not say that Alabama is guilty of any NCAA violations, but does indicate there has been concern. The statement also indicates that Alabama continues to have good institutional control. In the past The University has been praised for its institutional control. And, as Moore said, "the same people are in place."

Those people are primarily Faculty Chairman of Athletics Gene Marsh, a professor in the school of law who is also a member of the NCAA Infractions Committee; and Associate Athletics Director for Compliance Marie Robbins.

Marsh, Robbins (who is also an attorney) and a University staff attorney were in attendance when Bama coaches and athletes were interviewed by NCAA investigators. There was a report that The University attorney went to NCAA headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, a few weeks after the interviews, but that could not be confirmed. And, in any event, it would be impossible to know what such a visit would mean if it was made.

One of the coaches who was interviewed, former Assistant Head Coach and Recruiting Coordinator Ronnie Cottrell, was reported to have said later, "Based on what I had heard, I thought I was going to need an attorney. And The University provided attorneys during the interview. But I didn't need one." Cottrell, who had run afoul of NCAA regulations in the past, has insisted to friends that he has committed no violations.

There were also reports that an Alabama supporter, Logan Young of Memphis, was suspected by NCAA investigators of violating NCAA rules in recruiting. Young, who is not an alumnus of The University but whose ties go back to his friendship with the late Coach Paul Bryant, has also said that he has done nothing against NCAA rules and has invited an NCAA interview, which has not been forthcoming. Young has been the long-

time target of rumors begun and prolonged by interests of the University of Tennessee.

Following the initial probe, Sorensen was quoted as saying Alabama had no information about booster involvement, but said, "During the interviews some additional allegations surfaced."

Both Moore and Robbins have insisted that Alabama is cooperating fully with the NCAA. "That is our responsibility," Moore said.

Robbins pointed out that the NCAA is gathering information and "we'll help them get that done."

There have been reports that Moore believes there will be no sanctions involving a lack of institutional control, but that there may be some penalties. But he was also quoted as saying, "No one has been charged with anything. It may be nothing."

Although there is no way to know if there is a connection with the recent interviews at The University, rumors of problems surfaced last summer when it was learned that NCAA investigators had interviews with at least two former Alabama players who had transferred to other schools. Those players were Eric Locke, now at Tennessee, and Travis Carroll, now at Florida. Published reports said both told investigators Alabama had not violated any rules in recruiting the players.

Florida Coach Steve Spurrier, who has a history of loquaciousness, said that Florida sent a letter to Alabama after freshman lineman Justin Smiley of Brooklet, Georgia, committed to Alabama. Smiley, who had also committed to South Carolina, then Florida, had reportedly said that he got a truck after committing to Alabama. He and his family say he got the truck, which was purchased in Tuscaloosa, as a combination graduation and birthday gift. Alabama officials said they were satisfied with the explanation, but Florida officials indicated they were not.

After the probe was announced, Spurrier was quoted as saying, "Obviously it didn't surprise a lot of us. If all us coaches were honest, we'd say we thought something like this was going to happen."

Last year Alabama defeated Florida twice, first ending a long winning streak for the Gators in Gainesville, then humiliating Florida in the SEC Championship Game.

Former Assistant Coach Ivy Williams was one of those interviewed by the NCAA and he was reported to have said that part of the questioning involved a player signed by both Alabama and Tennessee. He did not qualify academically at Alabama and ended up for a brief time at Tennessee.

One unfounded rumor contains the most damning allegation, that a former coach was involved in altering grades of prospects.





## THE ULTIMATE GAME DAY, ANY DAY LUXURY SPORTS CONDOMINIUMS

**VISIT OUR NEWLY COMPLETED FURNISHED MODELS**  
612 13th Avenue at 8th Street and  
900 13th Avenue, 600' from Bryant-Denny Stadium

**E**ntertain guests, watch the action from your balcony, or join in the festivities in the Bama Club. It's all just a stone's throw from Bryant Denny Stadium when you own a GAMEDAY CENTER Sports Condominium!

Suites offer professionally coordinated furniture and accessories. Simply walk in and start entertaining! For business, for pleasure, Bama's Gameday Center is the ultimate in sports and year 'round UA accommodations. For floorplans, locations and additional information, call today, 205.366.1680 or 800.693.8204.

- ◆ Management/Optional Rental Program available for your suite
- ◆ Prices from \$80's to \$325,000's
- ◆ Private, assigned parking
- ◆ Owners' Private Club open game days and special weekends
- ◆ Conference room, catering, golf and concierge service



A GAMEDAY CENTERS Southeastern, LLC, Development. Marketed and Developed by Gleneagles Southeastern.



# Despite Finish, There Was Success

by J.E. Lisby

A final look at the senior members of the 2000 Alabama Crimson Tide football team

**I**t was a tough year for everyone associated with the Alabama football family. High expectations turned into utter frustration as the Tide suffered its worst season in over 40 years. And no group was more disappointed in the team's performance than the senior class.

They had expected to once again battle for conference honors, but it wasn't in the cards. However, as the group leaves The Capstone these players will carry with them memories of two bowl games and a Southeastern Conference championship ring.

Before the season began, the squad honored Kenny Smith, Paul Hogan and Bradley Ledbetter by electing the three to serve as captains. Ledbetter, a native of Pelham, played in all 11 games, handling the long-snapping duties for punts and backing up that job for placekicks. Smith of Meridian, Mississippi, was the bell cow of the Tide defensive line the entire year. He finished with 72 tackles (fifth on the squad, 13 for a loss), three and one half sacks, 19 quarterback hurries, one pass deflection, one fumble recovery, two forced fumbles and one blocked kick while starting every game. Earlier in his career, Smith had been named Freshman All-America and was second-team All-SEC as a sophomore and junior. Likewise, Hogan of Valdosta, Georgia, was the leader of the Bama offensive line, starting every game for the Tide. Despite the team's poor performance, Hogan was voted to the Coaches' All-SEC squad, his second year in a row on that unit.

Besides Hogan, several seniors made significant contributions to Alabama's offense. Shaun Bohanon of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, played sparingly in every game (starting twice, once at fullback and once at tailback), but the highlight of his career came in 1999 when he filled in for an injured Shaun Alexander, responding with over 100 yards versus a tough Southern Miss defense.

Will Cuthbert played both guard and tackle during his career, but spent most of

this season at right tackle. The Fort Pierce, Florida, native started every game.

Injuries forced Shawn Draper to play different positions this year, but whether at left tackle or tight end the Huntsville native was invaluable to the team. In 10 games (eight starts), Draper had three receptions for 90 yards, including a 56-yard touchdown.

Dustin McClintock of Quinlan, Texas, started six games at fullback and played extensively in every contest. Mainly used as a blocking back, 'Big Red' also contributed 22 carries for 115 yards and one touchdown and five receptions for 20 yards and a touchdown.

Jasper's Griff Redmill was the third senior starter on Alabama's offensive line. The veteran left guard started every game for the Tide, finishing his career with 37 consecutive starts.

Arvin Richard of Atlanta, Georgia, was only a sometime starter, but he played extensively on special teams and as a pass-receiving specialist out of the backfield. In 11 games, he managed three carries for 26 yards, six receptions for 65 yards and 17 kickoff returns for 325 yards. In all, his 415 all-purpose yards ranked him sixth on the squad.

Numerous senior athletes played key roles this year on Alabama's defense. Tuscaloosa's Kecal Bailey played extensively at cornerback, starting the final four games. Bailey, who became a fixture on the SEC Academic Team during his college career, had 25 tackles, two pass deflections and one forced fumble this season.

Tony Dixon's senior year actually began with a demotion, as the former starter temporarily lost his job at safety. But the Reform native just worked that much harder and wound up starting seven games at free safety. For the season he had 90 tackles (third on the team), two interceptions, six pass deflections and one forced fumble.

Milo Lewis who came from junior college, once again held down the left corner-

back position. He played in every game (starting eight), and led the team with four interceptions. Toward the end of the season, the Mountain View, California, native had become a vocal leader of the defense. Along with his interceptions, Lewis had 44 tackles, 17 pass deflections and a fumble return for a touchdown.

From his strong safety position, Marcus Spencer was a force on defense, leading the squad in tackles with 102. He also had three interceptions, seven pass deflections and one sack. Spencer's best performance came against Mississippi State as the York native totaled 19 tackles in a losing effort.

Kelvis White of Courtland and Todd Whitmore of Ranburne both contributed solid minutes at defensive tackle for the Tide. White started two games before a recurring knee injury forced him to a backup role. White had 19 tackles and a quarterback hurry, playing in every game, while Whitmore saw action in 10 games and contributed eight tackles. Tuscaloosa's Jason Jones was a backup safety for the Tide for his entire career, seeing action in 10 games in 2000 and making three tackles.

**D**uring the season, numerous NFL scouts visited Alabama practices and commented on the prospects of several athletes. Heading the list are Kenny Smith, Shawn Draper and Tony Dixon, with Dustin McClintock and Paul Hogan also getting some mention. Smith is probably rated no better than a mid-round draft choice, but a good performance at the scouting combines—possible since he is an outstanding athlete—could raise his stock back to near pre-season expectations. Draper should also get drafted, though because of his blocking ability, he's projected as an offensive tackle. As for Dixon, the scouts like his intelligence and athleticism, figuring he could blossom with the right defensive coaching. He may not get drafted, but he should be signed.

McClintock is a step slower than the



scouts would like, but a devastating blocker who can also catch the football is always a valuable commodity, so it's thought that he will get a chance. Hogan's story remains the same—big heart but undersized. Nevertheless, the scouts like his work habits, and he will probably be given the opportunity to make a pro team.

Several other Tide seniors also plan to participate in the various NFL combines, hoping to catch someone's eye. Redmill has the tools—size, strength and athleticism—and he reports that his winter will be spent conditioning. The knock on Spencer has always been his speed, but his intelligence and ferocious tackling won't go unnoticed. Lewis isn't likely a top corner prospect, but his instincts and playmaking ability (he led Alabama in interceptions two years running) will impress the scouts. And Will Cuthbert is another Tide lineman who hopes to do well in the tryouts.

Smith, Hogan, McClintock and Dixon received invitations to the prestigious Senior Bowl all-star game played in Mobile, while Montgomery's Blue-Gray Game, which rarely has Bama players owing to the Tide almost always being in a bowl game, had Hogan, McClintock, Redmill, Draper and Spencer. Lewis was selected for the Rotary Gridiron Classic.

Quality scout teams are a tradition at Alabama, and this year's senior class includes many who worked tirelessly without benefit of a scholarship. With rare exceptions, scout team members labor in obscurity, forced to gain satisfaction from the knowledge that they have effectively prepared the starters for game day.

Several seniors from the scout team did earn some game experience this year. Linebacker David Barron of Marietta, Georgia, linebacker Corey Bryan of Andalusia, linebacker Stanley Jackson of Auburn, defensive tackle Chauvon McFaddon of Herndon, Virginia, placekicker Chris Kemp of Jacksonville, Florida, and long snapper Tripp Powell of Tuscaloosa all played briefly for the Tide. Kemp is best remembered for kicking the winning extra point in Alabama's thrilling one-point victory over Florida in 1999 in the Swamp.

However, despite working hard, most scout team athletes never play a down. The rest of Alabama's scout team seniors are placekicker Chad Barron of Marietta, Georgia, left guard Patrick Boylan of Manchester, New Hampshire, split end John Gartman of Camden, flanker Chad



Defensive lineman Kenny Smith was a pre-season all-star, but as Alabama's team performed poorly there were not many honors for the senior members of the 2000 Crimson Tide. Barry Fikes Photo

Handley of Columbiana, linebacker Jamie Hunter of Daphne, punter Jason Kellen of Tuscaloosa, and split end Ron Logan of Bedford, Kentucky.

Other seniors playing a crucial role behind the scenes are the student managers and trainers. Before, during and after practice, these volunteers handle the tasks nec-

essary to keep a college team functioning. Senior managers included Billy Green of Tuscaloosa and Matt Praytor of Hartselle, who also served as head manager. Chris Sheheane of Homewood, Mark Thompson of Pell City, and Andrew Gallucci of Clearwater, Florida, served as student athletic trainers.



# He's Gone From Last To First

by Jason Houston

## Freshman star is leading Crimson Tide basketball

It is a familiar playground scene: one by one, kids are chosen for one team or the other until, finally, there is one child left, the last pick. It's hard to imagine that Gerald Wallace would ever have been anything other than the first pick. But long ago in Childersburg, a skinny child much younger than the rest clamored to join in the games. Wallace, who would go on to be "Mr. Basketball" in Alabama as a high school senior and who has already been chosen Southeastern Conference Player of the Week in his first month of college play at Alabama, can remember those early days.

"No, I was never the best in my group," he said. "I wasn't considered the best until I got to high school. I started playing basketball when I was about six or seven years old at a community recreation center in my neighborhood."

But, Wallace said, he never played with kids his own size. "I always played with kids that were older than me," Wallace said. "They played physical and hard. I was always getting knocked down and I was always the player that was last to be picked. In fact, I didn't get to play unless they needed me to make the teams even. They just considered me a kid."

Things changed in a hurry. Wallace began playing basketball competitively at age seven. By the sixth grade, he was able to jump and touch the rim. By the seventh grade, he was dunking the basketball. He wasn't just a kid anymore.

Chad Slaten teaches physical education at Childersburg Middle School and coaches basketball at Childersburg High. He was privy to every stage of Wallace's development.

"I'd watch him when he was in fifth and sixth grade, playing around in P.E.," Slaten said. "We knew he was going to be special. When I took over the program in the 1994-1995 season, he was in the ninth grade. Watching him play at that level, I knew he was really going to be something."

Slaten said, "We kept him on the junior varsity team as a freshman to let him play with kids his own age. Gerald played varsity for us as a sophomore. He started for me as a sophomore and of course, he's started ever since."

It was then that Wallace began catching the eye of college scouts, too. Alabama Head Coach Mark Gottfried said, "I heard about him when he was in about the ninth grade. Robert Scott was the first person to tell me

about him." At the time, Gottfried was head coach at Murray State in Kentucky and Scott, who died last year, was an assistant at UAB. When Gottfried came to Alabama and hired Scott, that was a key in the recruiting of Gerald Wallace.

Wallace embarked on a phenomenal high school career. He was named Childersburg High's team MVP his sophomore, junior, and senior years. As a senior, he averaged 32 points and 13.8 rebounds a game, amassing a total of 2,477 points and 1,236 rebounds during his high school career.

Numerous awards followed, including the 2000 Naismith High School Player of the Year Award, the 2000 *USA Today* National Player of the Year Award, and the title of "Mr. Basketball" in the state of Alabama.

"I never dreamed he would be that good," Slaten said. "Who would have known that he would be the best high school player in the nation? It was a great opportunity for me to coach him and it was great for Childersburg."

Practically every major college in the country coveted Wallace's services. "I learned a lot about the [recruiting] process," Slaten said. "There were a lot of phone calls, a lot of universities calling to talk to me and talk to him. Our phone never stopped ringing; but if I had the chance to do it all again, I would. It was nerve-racking for me, but I didn't get too upset about it, because here he was a 17-year-old kid going through it. It was a lot tougher on him, but he did a great job with it. Talking to people and dealing with them; he handled it great."

Wallace credits his mother for helping him deal with the process.

"There wasn't any extra pressure, because I just never worried about it," Wallace said. "My mother told me to go to school, play ball and have fun, and if I did that she would help me handle the other stuff. So, that's how we did it."

In the end, Wallace decided to cast his lot with The University of Alabama, a decision that definitely pleased Gottfried.

"Recruiting him was certainly competitive," Gottfried said. "But, Gerald wanted to stay close to home. He made an early decision, which was good for him and us too."

"He made a good decision to go to The University," Slaten said. "Coach Gottfried is going to do a great job of teaching him more about the game."

One factor that played a role in the decision was Alabama sophomore Rod Grizzard, who was a friend to Wallace before college.

"Rod helped recruit me," Wallace said. "We were friends. We kept in touch for two years. He came here when I was still in high school, and I would come up here all the time. He and I would play one-on-one, fun stuff. He was a big part of it."

"In the end, I chose Alabama because of the friends that I have here and the coaching

staff. Plus, I liked the location and how close it was to my home. It gives my family the chance to come down and see me play."

Much is made of the transition from high school basketball to playing on the major college level. Through his first six regular season games as a freshman, Wallace seemed to be handling the transition well, thank you. At that point, he was averaging 20.3 points, 7.5 rebounds, and 24.5 minutes played per game. His season highs are staggering for a freshman: 27 points vs. Grambling, 17 rebounds and 29 minutes, both against Wofford. He was leading Bama in scoring and he was named Southeastern Conference Player of the Week in early December.

"I like my role coming out of high school," Wallace said. "I wanted to go somewhere that I could fit in. I don't have to start and be 'the man.' I don't have to come out and score all the points. I'm just doing what I wanted to do: come out, fit in, have fun, and not have to be the 'go-to guy' every time out."

The transition from high school to college has not been difficult, according to Wallace.

"You work hard, but you have fun," he said. "You have to realize that one day everything can be going right for you and the next everything can go wrong. You have to come out every day and work hard."

"One transition from high school to college is that in college, you can get knocked off that pedestal really quick," Wallace said. "In high school, it's harder to get knocked off once you're on top. You have to work really hard for things in college."

"It's about what I expected. It takes away a lot of your free time with the schoolwork and the practice and all the things you have to do. It's a lot of hard work. You have to be well managed and well scheduled to be a good student-athlete. It was kind of hard to me at first, but I'm adjusting better every day."

"Gerald is learning," said Gottfried. "He's learning the college game, and I think he's had a great start. He puts so much pressure on people because he's so active. He's always involved in the play."

"Honestly, watching him play in college reminds me of watching him in high school," Slaten said. "He's just so much better than the average player."

Wallace has become a fan-favorite, in part due to his propensity to rattle the rims with thunderous dunks. After each one, slow motion highlights are played on the JumboTron in Coleman Coliseum.

"I try to use my dunks to get the crowd in the game early to help us out," Wallace said. "I've never been that nervous in front of big crowds. I've been playing in front of big



crowds all my life. It seemed like every gym I played in when I was in high school was sold out. This is just a lot more energy. I try to get my teammates to feed off the crowd the way I feed off them."

Grizzard is one of those teammates now, and his play seemingly elevates every time Wallace enters the game.

"It's just like when we played together before I came here," Wallace said. "I can't even really describe it. I'm so used to playing with him and against him. It's a good thing to me. I can come in and not have all the pressure and let him have some of it. Now they have me and Rod to worry about, so I can take my time and let the game flow, and we can interchange."

Wallace and the team have high goals.

"Our goal is to make it to the NCAA tournament," Wallace said. "We want to win the SEC West and win the SEC Championship and then make it to the NCAA."

"The biggest goal that we have is to win the NCAA tournament. But, we just want to take it one step at a time and reach one goal at a time. Our first goal was to come out and win these first few games and play hard and get a lot of things done, and that's what we're doing now."

**W**hat does the future hold for Wallace? The NBA is obviously his targeted destination. During his recruiting process, Wallace was said to be considering a direct jump to the NBA, bypassing college altogether.

"Ability-wise, being able to play at that level [the NBA], he was ready last spring," Staten said. "But, going out in the world at seventeen? No, he wasn't ready for that. The skills are there, but he made a good decision to go to The University."

Gottfried said. "What we want to do is help him to improve, to be the best he can be. And when the time comes, hopefully he's ready and we can advise him on that."

Wallace wants to get to the NBA, but he's in no hurry. "I'm just thinking about college ball right now," he said.

If Wallace follows in the footsteps of his role model, he will certainly make a splash at the next level. His childhood hero was Michael Jordan, considered by many to be the best basketball player who ever lived.

Wallace admitted that he has always wanted to "be like Mike."

"When I was growing up, I tried to be like him, but as I got older, I realized that there were just some things he could do that I couldn't do," said Wallace. "So, I realized I had to go out and make an image for myself and become my own person and just play the game that I know how to play."

"If I can come up to the height he is, then I will be glad. I followed in his steps as a kid, but now it's time for me to make my own way."

His own way has been a success on and off the floor, say his coaches.

"Well, I just think he's such a great person," Gottfried said. "Relationships mean a



Gerald Wallace was considered by some to be the nation's top prospect when he was a senior at Childersburg High School. As a freshman at Alabama he has shown those assessments to be accurate.

Kent Gidley Photo

lot to him, people mean a lot to him. Because of that, he's just wonderful to be around. We're thankful that he's here."

"Off the floor, he's just a big kid," Staten said. "He loves to cut up and have a good time, but when it's game time or practice time, he takes things very seriously. He takes things to another level then. He plays so hard."

"He has a big heart and is a great person to be around. As far as basketball goes, on the floor and about his game, he has a tremendous work ethic. I just can't say enough good things about him. He's unbelievable."

Gerald Wallace has been a success story so far. He has the potential for even more success in the future. And he'll never again be the last player picked.



## Baseball Outlook:

# Wells Has Hopes For Rebound

by Peter Edmund

Preseason expectations won't be as high this year

Does this sound familiar? A pre-season ranking of number three, followed by a disappointing season. No, we're not talking about the 2000 Alabama football team. Last year the Alabama baseball team was ranked third in all preseason polls and a virtual lock to represent the Southeastern Conference at the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska. Didn't happen.

This year, the Crimson Tide will not have the preseason pressures of winning the SEC and playing in Omaha for the fourth time in the last five years. But, that does not mean Alabama won't make those lofty goals, either.

The Crimson Tide finished 41-24 last year, including a 16-14 mark in SEC play. Alabama, the unanimous pick to win the SEC Western Division, finished fourth behind LSU, Mississippi State and Auburn.

Alabama lost several starters and top pitchers off last year's squad to the Major League Baseball draft, while several others decided to transfer to other schools. A total of 16 players on last year's roster are no longer with the Crimson Tide, which left Coach Jim Wells and his staff with a lot of question marks entering the team's fall practice time.

After four weeks of hard work in fall practice and intrasquad games, most of those questions were answered.

"The fall went well," Wells said. "We are better than we thought. We are much better defensively, too. We also have two guys on the mound who we feel can win in the SEC. I think this team has a chance to be very special.

"I am very encouraged," said Wells, who begins his seventh season at Alabama. "Our goals this fall were to play hard and become a better team and we did that. We have a large number of players who practice hard every day. I think we are similar to the first team

Expected to lead the way for Alabama baseball this year are (left to right) pitcher B.J. Green, infielder Brent Boyd, first baseman Aaron Clark and catcher Jeremy Brown. Green is coming off injury, while Boyd, Clark and Brown will all be in new positions.

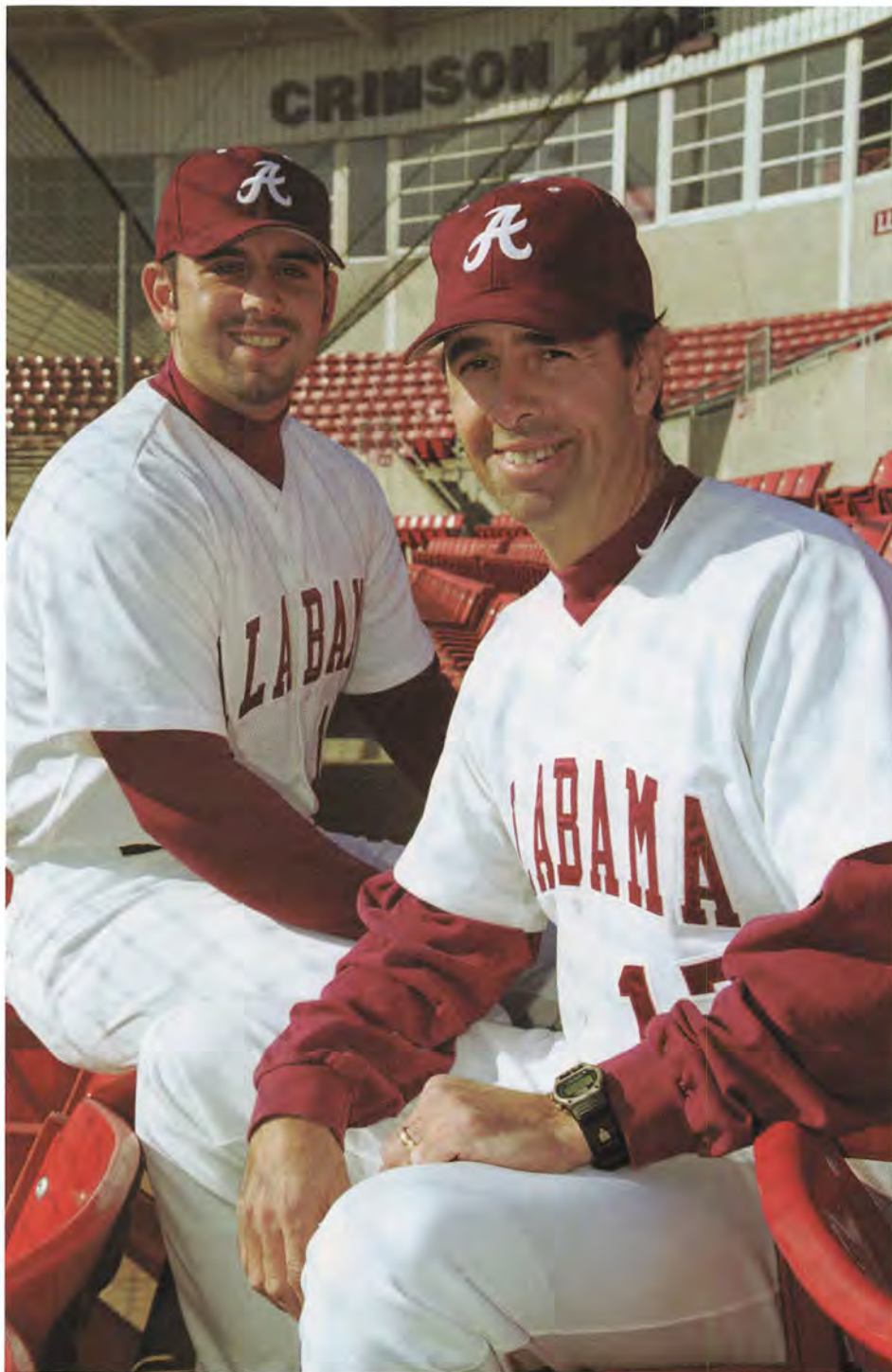
Kent Gidley Photo











Jim Wells (right) is beginning his seventh season as Alabama's highly-successful head baseball coach. The Tide expects big things from Jeremy Brown (left), who moves to catcher. Kent Gidley Photo

(1995) in that regard. That makes a big difference."

Alabama returns five everyday starters and four of its top pitchers off last year's club. The returning position players include Brent Boyd (Junior, 5-10, 185, .360, 14 home runs, 63 runs batted in, Ft. Worth, Texas), Jeremy Brown (Junior, 5-9, 210, .322, 10 HR, 50 RBI, Hueytown), Aaron Clark

(Senior, 6-1, 195, .297, 6 HR, 26 RBI, Ennis, Texas), Casey Lambert (Senior, 5-8, 160, .320, 5 HR, 47 RBI) and Scott McClanahan (Junior, 6-2, 210, .295, 5 HR, 22 RBI).

While the names are the same, several returnees will have new homes on the diamond this season.

Boyd, who played nearly every game at third base the last two seasons will move to second base for the 2001 season. He was the Crimson

Tide's leading hitter last year and ranked second in home runs and runs batted in. Brown, a freshman All-America at first base in 1999 and a two-year starter for the Crimson Tide is also making a move. Brown will be the Crimson Tide's catcher this season. Clark, who set the Alabama single-game record with 12 putouts by an outfielder against Tennessee, will move to first base in 2001.

"Brown has been really good behind the plate and Boyd has been really good at second base," Wells said. "That makes us stronger up the middle defensively."

Lambert will return at shortstop for the Crimson Tide. As a junior, Lambert made 29 errors to lead the team, but has improved defensively from a year ago. He was also a surprise at the plate, leading the team in average and RBI with the bases loaded. McClanahan had an impressive sophomore year and will likely be the every day centerfielder. He possesses the speed and arm to play the outfield, and matured into a power hitter last year.

On the mound, Lance Cormier (Right-Handed, Junior, 6-1, 185, 4-4, 5.54 earned run average, 4 Saves), Jason Gingrich (RHP, Senior, 6-0, 215, 4-1, 5.75, 1 Save), Bryce Heath (RHP, Senior, 6-5, 180, 4-2, 2.94 ERA) and Jeremy Vaughn (RHP, Junior, 6-2, 192, 7-3, 4.50 ERA, 2 complete games) all have experience and should be the core of the staff in 2001. Bama is also counting on the return of B.J. Green (Junior, RHP, 6-1, 230), who missed last year with injury. He had a combined 13-3 record in his first two seasons.

Cormier has been a starter and reliever during his two-year career. He was one of the SEC's most dominating closers in 1999, recording a league-high 11 saves. He is expected to be one the mainstays in the Tide's SEC pitching rotation this year. Vaughn was also an SEC starter last year and should be again in 2001. He may have been the Tide's most consistent arm and he finished the year with a bang, beating LSU on the final day of the regular-season and Georgia in the SEC Tournament for his only two career complete games. He was also named District IV Academic All-America.

Heath, a 2001 National Collegiate Baseball Writer's Third-Team preseason All-America pick, was solid out of the pen last season for the Crimson Tide and developed into the closer. He posted the team's lowest earned run average and led the team in appearances. Gingrich had his moments last year, too. He started with an impressive outing against BYU and closed the year with a must-win game in the NCAA Regional beating Stanford. Gingrich could also vie for one of the spots in the SEC rotation this year.

The Tide has a lot of depth this season, but not a lot of experience to go with the everyday returnees from last year. Still, Wells will have a number of options to fill the openings in the starting lineup.

In the field, Jeff Dragg (designated hitter, Junior, 6-0, 197, Covington, Louisiana) and Matthew Whitaker (infielder, Sophomore, 6-



2, 200, Vestavia Hills) return and will be joined by newcomers Ty Harper (infielder, Sophomore, 6-2, 210, Newport Beach, California), Beau Hearod (infielder, Sophomore, 5-8, 186, Jennings, Louisiana, transfer from Tulane), Tyler Holt (outfielder, Freshman, 5-11, 197, Mountain Brook), Adam Pavkovich (infielder, Freshman, 6-0, 160, Venice, Florida), Grant Redding (outfielder, sophomore, 5-10, 180, Birmingham, transfer from Clemson), Gabe Scott (outfielder, Freshman, 6-0, 189, Lake Charles, Louisiana) and Peter Stonard (infielder, Freshman, 6-0, 180, Clayton, Missouri).

Stonard signed with Alabama last fall after he batted .608 with 10 home runs and 58 RBI as a senior at Clayton High School. The New York Yankees drafted him in the 41st round.

Hearod transferred to Alabama from Tulane University. While with the Green Wave, he batted .238 with one home run and 19 RBI in limited duty as a back-up infielder. Prior to playing at Tulane, Hearod batted .588 with 11 home runs and 44 RBI as a senior at Jennings High School. He was named *USA Today* honorable mention All-America in 1997 and 1999. A four-time all-state selection, Hearod led Jennings High School to four consecutive appearances in the state playoffs. He concluded his prep career with a .558 average, 128 hits, 44 doubles, 23 home runs, 128 RBI and a 1.100 slugging percentage, all school records.

Pavkovich played on three district championship teams (1998-2000) and finished runner-up in the state tournament in 1999. As a senior, he batted .356 with four home runs and 26 RBI. He also led the team with 35 runs scored. The co-captain of his high school team, Pavkovich was chosen to participate in the West Florida High School All-Star Classic and Team One Showcase. Pavkovich was also a three-time All-Tournament selection at the Sarasota Baseball Classic, where he won MVP honors in 1999. Also named to the Dunedin

Spring Baseball All-Tournament Team in 1999.

Scott played at Barbe High School, where his team played for the state championship three of the last four years, winning the title in 1998 and 2000. Barbe was state runner-up in 1999. As a junior and senior, Scott belted 21 home runs and knocked in 92 runs. A two-year all-state selection, Scott was a starting outfielder in the 2000 Louisiana High School All-Star game.

Redding appeared in five games last year for Clemson, which reached the College World Series. He had one hit in five at-bats for the Tigers. Originally from Birmingham, Redding is a 1998 graduate of Homewood High School, where he played for coach Bobby Statum. The *Birmingham News* and Alabama Sports Writer's Association named him all-state following his senior season, where he batted .520 (53-for-102) with 46 runs scored, 11 doubles, five triples, seven home runs and 42 RBI.

Behind the plate, Scott Evans (catcher/infielder, Senior, 6-0, 175, Demopolis) will be the main backup for Brown this season. Evans was a solid utility player last year and can play a number of positions, including shortstop and second base. He batted .256 with one home run and three RBI in 25 games. The Crimson Tide will also have the services of Eddie Ferguson (Freshman, 6-0, 195, Seneca, South Carolina), David Putnam (Junior, 6-2, 205, Beville State) and Andrew Schmidt (Freshman, 6-2, 200, Vestavia Hills).

On the mound, the Crimson Tide will look for Landon Brazell (RHP, Freshman, 6-0, 185, Dothan), Mark Carter (LHP, Junior, 6-3, 210, Wallace-Hanceville), Josh Mims (RHP, Freshman, 5-11, 184, Hoover), Nate Rogers (RHP, Junior, 5-11, 180, Shelton State), Shane Sanders (RHP, Junior, 5-10, 190, Wallace-Hanceville), Chad White (RHP, Freshman, 6-2, 185, Prattville) and Jared Woodward (RHP, Freshman, 5-11, 165, Tuscaloosa).

Carter and Sanders were junior college transfers at Wallace Community College in

Hanceville. The duo will be counted on heavily this season. Either or both could crack the starting pitching rotation.

Sanders was a member of the 1999 Wallace State team that advanced to the National Junior College Athletic Association World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado, finishing third. A two-time all-region selection, Sanders led the nation with 13 saves in 1999. He is from Cullman.

Carter, a native of Birmingham, was the nation's top junior college pitcher in 1999, posting a 16-2 record and 1.29 ERA in leading his team to the state title and berth in the Junior College World Series. He was 9-4 on the mound last year, giving him 25 career junior college wins.

Rogers will be a two-way threat for the Crimson Tide, on the mound and in the outfield. Originally from Rotoura, New Zealand, Rogers played his junior college baseball across town at Shelton State.

The Tide will add a pair of transfers to its 2001 baseball roster in January. Joining the Tide will be outfielder Kavonski Chatman (Junior, 6-1, 190) and left-handed pitcher Clint Kelley (Junior, 6-3, 210).

Chatman, a left-handed power hitter, played the last two years at Northeast Texas Community College. He hails from the same junior college that produced former Crimson Tide All-America Roberto Vaz.

Kelley will transfer from Okaloosa-Walton Community College, where he played the last two seasons for Kevin Berry, a former Tide assistant coach under Wells.

Alabama will begin practice on Monday, January 15. Tentative intrasquad dates are January 20-21, January 26-28 and February 2-4. The Alabama Grand Slammers annual pre-season barbecue is set for Sunday, February 4, 2001 in the Hank Crisp Indoor Facility.

The 2001 season opens Friday, February 9 against Oklahoma at Sewell-Thomas Stadium.



2514 University Blvd.  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401  
(205) 752-6222  
(800) 579 TIDE

e-mail:  
dtgallery@mindspring.com  
www.thedowntowngallery.com



"Coach Bryant with Lee Roy Jordan"

## TWO WINNERS

by Daniel Moore

Image Size  
13" x 16.25"

Unframed Print - \$55.00

Framed Print - \$125.00  
(Cherry frame, double matted)

Add \$10 S&H unframed  
Add \$15 S&H framed

Alabama residents must add 8% sales tax.



# Going For Repeat To World Series

by John Hayden

Things couldn't look much better for 2001 Alabama

For the University of Alabama softball program, the situation could not seem brighter. The team is coming off its first ever trip to the Women's College World Series, it has three All-Americans and two other All-Southeastern Conference players returning, and the team has the use of all the facilities of its state-of-the-art stadium for the first time. However, Alabama Head Coach Patrick Murphy is not yet ready to go out and buy airplane tickets to Oklahoma City for the 2001 World Series.

"Every year means a totally different team, as any coach will tell you," said Murphy. "The chemistry is always changing as the kids get older and you're bringing in a new class of freshmen, and you never know how they're going to jell together."

The Crimson Tide returns eight letter winners from last year's team that led the nation

in victories. Bama finished the 2000 season with a 66-14 mark, including a 30-6 home record and 25-5 SEC mark. The Tide was runner-up in the SEC Tournament and was eliminated from the Women's College World Series by eventual champion Southern Miss.

The Tide's returning players include All-America stars Ginger Jones, Kelly Kretschman and Shelley Laird, and All-SEC performers Suzanne Olcott and Lacy Prejean, who was named the SEC Freshman of the Year.

Alabama will have to fill the leadership roles left vacant by five departed seniors, but Murphy is confident he has players who will take over.

"This year's seniors will definitely step up," said Murphy. "Kelly Kretschman came back from the Olympics a totally different person, in terms of leadership, especially vocal leadership. Kelley Askew and Ginger Jones both had really tough class schedules, and whenever they're gone, Melissa Bautista has picked it up; and while Kelly was gone, Ginger picked it up, so it's been a four-way thing with them."

There is also a staff change. Karen Johns has left the team as the assistant coach in charge of pitchers and catchers to take over the head coaching job at Florida. Her place

has been taken by Vann Studeman. Alyson Habetz returns to work with outfielders and hitters.

Murphy was pleased with the team's progress in the brief fall practice period. As seems to be the case in ball of all kinds, Murphy's primary concern for this season is pitching, even though Alabama would seem to be in good shape with its mound corps.

"We worried about pitching last year," said Murphy. "We thought the offense was just fine, but we were concerned with the pitching and they came through. We all know Shelley (Laird) can handle it and Melissa (Bautista), and now we've got a freshman (Erin Wright) who needs to step up and fill whatever role she's asked to fill."

Alabama pitchers certainly did come through in 2000. Laird led the SEC in victories and finished third in the nation with 38 (against only seven losses). Her 310 strikeouts were also tops in the SEC, as were her 327.1 innings pitched. He allowed only 239 hits and 63 earned runs for an earned run average of 1.35 and she walked only 72.

Bautista had an earned run average of 1.98 as she turned in an 18-4 record. She struck out 86 and walked only 32.



The Alabama softball team returns three All-America performers from last year in (left to right) centerfielder Kelly Kretschman, pitcher Shelley Laird, and first baseman Ginger Jones. Barry Fikes Photo



Murphy said the pitchers "always have to get better, either by adding a pitch or perfecting an old one. I think our two returnees have both added pitches, which will help them. Shelley's best pitch has been a rise ball. She's added a drop ball and a pretty good change-up. Melissa's off-speed this fall was tremendous. She had an off-speed pitch before, but now she's got a pure change-up that is really effective."

The coach said that freshman Wright "did good job working hard this fall."

**O**ffensively, the Crimson Tide expects big things from Kretschman, who spent her summer in Sydney, Australia, as a member of the United States Olympic softball team, and Jones. Kretschman led the conference in virtually every statistical category with the exception of home runs and runs batted in...and Jones took first in both those categories.

Kretschman, Bama's centerfielder, batted .436 as she managed 102 base hits. She also earned 51 bases on balls, against only 16 strikeouts, and had a .541 on-base percentage. Kelly also stole 43 bases in 46 attempts. She had 18 doubles, three triples, 14 home runs and 58 runs batted in.

Jones, a first baseman, led the Tide with 17 home runs and 69 runs batted in as she batted .356. The RBI mark was a school record and tied the SEC mark.

Bama has two excellent catchers in Lacy Prejean and Kelley Askew. Prejean was All-SEC as a freshman as she hit .254.

Also returning for the Tide is second baseman Suzanne Olcott, a .300 hitter last year, and shortstop Jennifer Reach, who hit .239.

**B**ama must fill holes at two right field position and at third base. Based on fall practice, the left field position is still up for grabs.

Murphy said, "No one really stepped forward in the fall, so we've got to find a left fielder in the three weeks we have of pre-season practice." Practice begins January 15. There is a possibility Bautista could be alternating in left field and on the pitching rubber as she was one of those in contention in the fall. Also vying for the job are freshman Angela Johnson, junior Amber Zugg and freshman Tiffany Johnson.

Murphy is very pleased with the prospects two freshmen bring to right field and third base. In right field will be Jackie McClain. "She was the best hitter in the South this

summer," Murphy said. At third base will be Lindsay Testa, who was a first team prep All-America.

**T**he Tide will participate in the Texas A&M Classic against the host Aggies and Penn State, both of whom were in the Crimson Tide's NCAA Regional Tournament last season.

"It's ironic because last year, we went to the Minnesota Tournament where two of the teams were in our 1999 NCAA Regional, and we won that tournament" said Murphy. "And then this year we start on the road at Texas A&M with those two teams. Hopefully, history will repeat itself."

Alabama plays in what Murphy considers three very strong tournaments, one of which is the NFCA Leadoff Classic in Columbus, Georgia. The Leadoff is generally thought to be the hardest tournament outside of the College World Series because the majority of the teams invited are ranked in the Top 25.

Alabama will begin the season hosting the 2001 Bama Bash from February 9-11 at the Alabama Softball Complex. For information on tickets to the tournament or season tickets call the UA Ticket Office at (205) 348-6111.

# 'Bama Watches



Quality components include Citizen® quartz movements. Water resistant with two year warranty. Elite watches packaged in tin gift box. Team watch packaged in tuck box.

'Bama' and 'Elephant' design are available with leather strap or bracelet. Please specify which design when ordering.



Men's

Elite Model - w/oiled leather strap - \$75.95



Women's



Men's

Elite Model - w/stainless steel bracelet - \$79.95



Women's



Team model - w/velcro sport strap - \$39.95



To order by credit card, call:  
**800-713-2261**

To order by mail, send check or money order to:  
Bama Watch, PO Box 866104, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486  
Add \$6.95 for ground S&H and 6% sales tax for AL residents.  
Allow 2-4 weeks for delivery. Rush delivery normally available.

**HANA  
TIME**



# BLOOD DIRT CONTROVERSY.

**IN-DEPTH FOOTBALL COVERAGE AT**  
**BamaMag.com**

message boards • chat • audio & video highlights • in-depth team analysis • team gear

©2000 Rivals.com All Rights Reserved. This URL is not the official team site.

powered by





# New Staff Making Up For Lost Time

by James Edwards

Croyle commitment is big event in recruiting effort

The installation of a new football coaching staff at Alabama brings with it questions in every area. But at this time of year the questions are in the same area that new Head Coach Dennis Franchione and his assistants recognize as most important: recruiting.

While the new coaches may have been behind when Franchione accepted the job on Friday, December 1, by Monday, December 4, when he was formally introduced at a press conference a lot of ground had been made up. Franchione brought in six assistants when he arrived in Tuscaloosa Sunday, December 3. The assistants did not make it to their hotel until early evening, and then they didn't even bother to unpack. They went directly to the football building. There they were met by five coaches from Mike DuBose's staff. Neil Callaway, Lance Thompson, Dabo Swinney, Charlie Harbison and Jeff Rouzie worked with their successors in providing information and videotapes of possible Tide prospects. The group worked together until 1 a.m., then started back again early the next day.

Franchione expects recruiting to be good, at least in the future. He said, "Last year, we were able to recruit two Top 100 players to TCU, the first time that happened. When you call a recruit and say you're from Alabama, that door opens a little wider. At Alabama, every National 100 recruit every year is going to get a call from us. I don't care where they live, we're going to recruit the best."

The first real benefit of the new recruiting team was a huge announcement for Bama on December 7. That's the day that Brodie Croyle, regarded by many as the nation's top prospect, announced that he would be a part of this latest era of Alabama football. Croyle, the son of former Bama player John Croyle and the brother of Reagan Croyle, a former Tide women's basketball player and 1999



Brodie Croyle

homecoming queen, was not an automatic addition. In fact, as late as the night before, Croyle had decided to announce for Florida State. Many believed that Franchione was going to suffer for having had the nation's leading rusher the past two years. Franchione was being inaccurately portrayed as an option offense coach, even a wishbone coach. However, the Croyles, father and son, met one final time with Franchione early on December 7. Brodie then stopped by Alabama Book Store and bought a Crimson Tide cap to use as a prop at his announcement that afternoon.

Croyle was an absolute must from a perception standpoint. There was as much relief as there was elation among Bama followers when he made his announcement. Croyle will enter The University in January and is expected to compete for the starting quarterback job against Andrew Zow and Tyler Watts this spring. Croyle is a 6-3, 190-pounder who played only one quarter of football this fall for Westbrook Christian in Rainbow City near Gadsden. Croyle missed the season with a knee injury suffered in the opening game. Still, he had made his name outside the high school arena. In virtually every summer camp he attended Croyle was the star of the show, earning him the title of the nation's top prospect despite his knee injury.

The second most important recruiting prize for Alabama is just a few miles from Croyle. Carnell Williams, a 6-0, 195-pound tailback at Attalla Etowah, would seemingly be as intrigued by Franchione's past two offensive teams as Croyle was worried. But the word from Attalla is not comforting for Alabama fans. Williams, who was named Mr. Football by the Alabama Sports Writers Association, has said that Tennessee is his leader.

Although Croyle and Williams are the highest profile prospects for Alabama this year, they are not the only prospects. Indeed, it is almost certain that Bama will attempt to sign not only those stars but also others at their positions.

Although Franchione said that Alabama's new coaching staff would honor the scholarship offers made by the DuBose staff if they had been publicly accepted, that does not necessarily mean that those who committed to the DuBose staff will be committed to the Franchione staff. That's in great part because the man so involved in Alabama recruiting under DuBose, Ronnie Cottrell, is not being retained by Franchione.

Additionally, two who had committed to Bama had reneged earlier. Von Ewing, a 6-5, 297-pound offensive lineman from Charles Henderson in Troy, committed to Bama last summer. Subsequently he committed to Michigan and Georgia. He is now thought to be deciding between Alabama and Tennessee. Tight end/defensive end Brandon Washington, 6-4, 283, of Tuscaloosa Central, has said that he is firm in his change of mind from Alabama to LSU. Washington wants to play on the defensive line and has said that Bama has too much depth to suit him.

There is some question about the status of two junior college players involved with Alabama. Dave Peterson, a 6-3, 245-pound linebacker/defensive end from Bristol, Florida, signed with Alabama two years ago, ended up at Coffeyville (Kansas) Community College, then recommitted to Alabama last summer. But there is no evidence the DuBose staff was ready to take Peterson. However, the DuBose staff had been excited about a commitment from 6-5, 300-pound offensive lineman Atlas Herrion of Daphne,

## Keep Up With Crimson Tide Recruiting!

Indeed, you can keep up with all facets of all Alabama sports, including Crimson Tide recruiting year-round, on our internet site, <http://BamaMag.com>  
You get daily reports from 'BAMA Editor Kirk McNair (who answers questions and also hosts regular chats) and information from regional and national experts.



## Possible Alabama Football Prospects

### QUARTERBACK (1-3 to be signed)

Brodie Croyle, 6-3, 190, Westbrook Christian in Rainbow City COMMITTED  
 Josh Crouch, 6-3, 165, Washington County in Chatham  
 Tarvaris Jackson, 6-2, 215, Montgomery Sidney Lanier (Ark, SC)  
 Ingle Martin, 6-4, 205, Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville (Fla, UT, Ole Miss)  
 Spencer Pennington, 6-4, 200, Fayette (Miss St soft commit)

### TAILBACK (1-2)

Decori Birmingham, 5-11, 192, Atlanta, Texas (Arkansas, Texas Tech, TCU)  
 Jabari Davis, 6-0, 230, Stone Mountain, Ga. (UT, Miss St, Miami)  
 Marquez DuPree, 5-11, 200, Philadelphia, Miss. (Also CB; son of Marcus; FSU, UT, Clem)  
 Derek Farmer, 6-0, 200, Lee High in Tyler, Texas (Texas A&M, Texas Tech)  
 Lionel Gates, 6-1, 210, Terry Parker in Jacksonville, Fla. (Fla, Syr)  
 Carnell Williams, 6-0, 195, Attalla Etowah (UT)  
 Keldrick Williams, 5-9, 195, Montgomery Sidney Lanier (NC St, AU)

### FULLBACK (0-1)

Andreal Curry, 6-1, 245, Titusville, Fla., Astronaut/Millford Prep (FSU, Miami, Fla, Clem)  
 Keith Glover, 6-2, 238, South Effingham, in Guyton, Georgia (Ga, Clemson)

### TIGHT END (1-2)

Donald Clark, 6-5, 255, Boca Raton, Fla., Fort Scott (Kansas) CC (Kansas, Missouri, Colo)  
 Cedrick Hampton, 6-3, 246, Courtland (UT, SC)  
 Clint Johnson, 6-4, 235, Wetumpka COMMITTED

### OFFENSIVE LINEMAN (4-6)

Millford Brown, 6-5, 295, Montgomery, East Miss JC (AU; may not be eligible for SEC)  
 Von Ewing, 6-5, 297, Charles Henderson of Troy (UT, Mich, Ga)  
 Antwan Franklin, 6-5, 285, Birmingham Woodlawn (Ole Miss, Ark, AU)  
 Atlas Herrion, 6-5, 295, Daphne, Dodge City, Kan., JC COMMITTED  
 Mo Mitchell, 6-8, 300, Albany, Ga., Fork Union Prep COMMITTED  
 Mark Sanders, 6-7, 305, Ashville (brother of RS freshman punter Matt) COMMITTED  
 John Wilson, 6-8, 280, Daytona Beach, Fla., Mainland (FSU, Fla, Miami, Mich, Ohio St, Penn St)

### WIDE RECEIVER (2-4)

Brian Bass, 6-1, 185, Fayette, now in baseball school in Florida COMMITTED  
 Ratavious Biddle, 6-1, 170, Decatur (NC State, UT, UK)  
 Brandon Brooks, 5-5, 155, Birmingham Shades Valley COMMITTED  
 Michael Clayton, 6-3, 200, Christian Life in Baton Rouge, La. (LSU and FSU clear leaders)  
 Pedro Holiday, 6-1, 180, Pepperell in Lindale, Ga. (AU, Ga Tech)  
 Anthony Mix, 6-4, 223, Baldwin County (AU, Ky) (could be DE)  
 Levon Thomas, 6-2, 190, Vannaker in College Park, Ga. (SC, Ga Tech)

### DEFENSIVE LINEMEN (5-6)

Todd Bates, 6-5, 230, Cleburne County in Heflin (AU, SC, Ga Tech) (could be TE)  
 McKinley Boykin, 6-2, 260, Birmingham McAdory (AU, USM) (suspect)  
 Dierre Carter, 6-4, 245, Memphis Melrose (UT, Ga, Ky)  
 Kerone Dixon, 6-5, 250, John Ehret in New Orleans  
 Marquis Elmore, 6-4, 230, Charlton County in Folkston, Ga. (Georgia commit, FSU)  
 Marquise Hill, 6-7, 290, New Orleans De LaSalle (FSU, Mich, LSU)  
 Darnell Jordan, 6-4, 245, John Ehret in New Orleans  
 Jeff Mayhew, 6-5, 265, Nederland, Texas (Rice, TCU, Colo, OK)  
 Melvin Oliver, 6-4, 245, Opelika (LSU, AU)  
 Dave Peterson, 6-2, 240, Bristol, Florida, Coffeyville, Kas., JC (former commit)  
 Freddie Roach, 6-3, 230, Killen Brooks (May be LB) COMMITTED  
 Le Kevin Smith, 6-4, 285, Stratford Academy, Macon, Ga. (FSU, Ga)  
 Justin Tuck, 6-5, 225, Coosa Central in Rockford (AU, ND, Ga Tech)  
 Mac Tyler, 6-6, 320, Bessemer, Millford Prep COMMITTED  
 Brandon Washington, 6-4, 270, Tuscaloosa Central (LSU commit?)

### LINEBACKER (2-4)

Jared Bowling, 6-2, 205, Jenks, Okla. (Kansas, KSU, Ark, TCU)  
 Pierre Brown, 6-1, 215, Birmingham Shades Valley (AU, Miss St, Ark, UT)  
 Kaiee Ellis, 6-3, 245, San Francisco CC (Neb, Wash, Wash St)  
 Avery Gibson, 6-2, 220, Hoover (NC St commit)  
 Michael Robinson, 6-3, 208, Birmingham Jackson-Olin (AU, GaTech, UT)  
 Jeremy Ruffin, 6-3, 210, Meridian (LSU, Miss State)  
 LeMarcus Rowell, 6-3, 200, Opelika (Auburn, LSU)  
 Greg Tinch, 6-4, 215, Westover of Albany, Ga. (Louisville, Marshall)

### DEFENSIVE BACK (3-5)

Rico Bennett, 6-1, 190, Brandon, Miss. (Miss. St. commit)  
 Reprobatus Bibb, 5-11, 175, Courtland (AU, Ole Miss)  
 Dominique Brown, 6-2, 180, Burke County, Waynesboro, Ga (Ga, Fla, Clem)  
 Quentin Burrell, 6-1, 175, Decatur, Ga., SW DeKalb (AU, Clem, Ga)  
 Ahmad Carroll, 6-1, 190, Douglass in Atlanta (FSU, UT, Ga)  
 Roman Harper, 6-1, 180, Prattville (USM, UAB)  
 Derron Johnson, 6-5, 208, Memphis Melrose (UT, UK, Ga, Ole Miss)  
 Anthony Madison, 5-9, 175, Thomasville (Ole Miss commit, AU)  
 Clarence McDougal, 6-1, 200, Clinton, Miss. (Miss St commit)  
 Antonio Watson, 6-2, 180, Hinds JC (Ind, Iowa)

### KICKING SPECIALIST (0-2)

Mike McLaughlin, Gautier, Miss. (PK)

who has been at Dodge City (Kansas) Community College. There have been conflicting reports on whether Herrion will join his old high school teammate, Kenny King, at Bama.

It is believed other previous commitments will be honored on both sides. They are wide receiver Brandon Brooks (5-5, 153) of Birmingham Shades Valley, offensive lineman Mark Sanders (6-7, 305 and brother of Tide punter Matt) of Ashville; and wide receiver Bryan Bass (6-1, 180) of Fayette, who did not play football this year at a private school in Florida and who is expected to be a high baseball draft choice.

Franchione also received word that two previous Alabama signees who have been in prep schools getting their academics in order would join the Tide for next season. They are defensive tackle Mac Tyler (6-6, 335) of Bessemer, who has been at Milford Prep in Connecticut, and offensive lineman Maurice "Mo" Mitchell (6-7, 320) of Albany, Georgia, who has been at Fork Union in Virginia.

While Croyle is the obvious big name in commitments added by the Franchione staff, new verbals also include tight end Clint Johnston (6-4, 235) of Wetumpka and defensive lineman/linebacker Freddie Roach (6-2, 225) of Killen Brooks.

Johnston is a quality tight end that works hard in the weightroom and transfers that to the playing field. He was a soft commitment to Southern Miss, but when Alabama came calling, he answered. His father (Johnny) and uncle (Donny) both played for Bama.

Roach is a powerful and fast middle linebacker who chose the Tide over Mississippi State and Auburn. He could play any of a number of positions, including tight end and fullback, but is expected to end up on defense.

The top in-state prospects coveted both by the DuBose staff and the Franchione staff are well known. In addition to Croyle, Williams, Roach and Ewing they include linebacker Lemarcus Rowell of Opelika, tight end Cedric Hampton of Courtland, and wide receiver Ratavious Biddle of Decatur.

Alabama is almost certainly back in on quarterback Spencer Pennington (6-4, 200) of Fayette County. Even though Pennington, the brother of former Tider Jeremy, has committed to Mississippi State, he will be among those who will get his first Crimson Tide offer from Franchione. The new staff is also expected to make the first Alabama overtures to linebacker/defensive end Justin Tuck (6-5, 210) of Rockford.

Others in Alabama who could get a Bama offer include wide receiver Anthony Mix (6-4, 223) of Baldwin County, linebacker Patrick Billings (6-3, 235) of Town Creek, linebacker Pierre Brown (6-1, 215) of



Shades Valley, linebacker Michael Robinson (6-3, 208) of Birmingham Jackson-Olin, lineman Antwarn Franklin (6-5, 285) of Birmingham Woodlawn, and strong safety Tavaurus Doyle (6-2, 200) of Pinson Clay-Chalkville, and running back Keldrick Williams (5-9, 195) of Montgomery Sidney Lanier.

**W**hile the Franchione staff may have been behind in some areas of recruiting, the new staff also had information about prospects who were not high on Alabama's previous recruiting list. Here are some of those who have indicated an interest in Bama.

Decori Birmingham is a 6-1 185 4.5 running back from Atlanta, Texas. He rushed for 1,952 yards on 238 carries with 25 touchdowns. He is considering Alabama along with Arkansas, Texas Tech, TCU, LSU, and Texas.

Derek Farmer is a 6-0, 200, 4.5 running back from Lee High School in Tyler, Texas. He rushed for 1,812 yards and 22 touchdowns and had six receptions for 164 yards and one touchdown as a senior, while accumulating 1,934 yards and 18 touchdowns as a junior. He is already qualified and is considering Texas Tech, Texas A&M, Alabama, and Oklahoma. He had been considering Miami, TCU, Mississippi State, and Kentucky.

Marcus King is a 5-11, 180, 4.50 cornerback from Nimitz High School in Irving, Texas. He has visits set to Missouri and Texas Tech, and is talking with Alabama.

Robert Toatley is a 6-3, 315 offensive guard from Malvern, Arkansas. He benches 470, squats 610, and power cleans 305. He graded 92 per cent his senior year. He is considering Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia, and Louisiana Tech.

Josh Alexander is a 6-3, 260 defensive tackle from St. Joseph's Academy in St. Augustine, Florida. He had 90 tackles, 22 sacks, and 20 tackles for losses as a junior. He is a December graduate who will go through spring practice with his college choice. He is looking at Oklahoma, Texas A&M, Florida, Texas, Clemson, Alabama, LSU, and Georgia Tech.

Kyle Roper is a 6-4, 255 tight end from McEachern High School in Powder Springs, Georgia. He had two touchdowns as a junior in a part time role, but as a senior through eight games, he had 15 receptions for over 200 yards and one touchdown. He benches 350, squats 475, and power cleans 305. He attended the Nike Combine ( Athens, GA ) and measured a 26" vertical jump. He favors Alabama over Auburn, Georgia Tech and Arkansas.

Mark Ebersole is a 6-5, 300 offensive tackle from Hopkinsville High School in Kentucky, the same school that has produced Tidlers Miguel Merritt and Sean Oglesby. He graded 85 per cent as a junior. He will graduate in December and go through spring training with his collegiate choice. He benches 315, has a 3.0 GPA, and scored 17 on the ACT. He is considering Louisville, Oklahoma State, Alabama, and Arkansas.

Jay Ashton is a 6-3, 251 defensive end from Ouachita Parish High School in Monroe, Louisiana. Last season he recorded over 60 tackles, 13 tackles for loss, and eight sacks. He camped at Nebraska and carries a 2.5 GPA. He bench presses 330 and squats 515. He favors Georgia, Alabama, Miami, Arkansas, and Baylor.

Kory Hebert is a 6-5, 220 tight end from Teurlings Catholic High School in Lafayette, Louisiana. Last year he hauled in 37 passes for 820 yards and 11 touchdowns. He

camped at LSU and is a soft commitment to the Tigers. He has a 2.6 GPA and 19 ACT. He bench presses 325 and squats 420. He lists LSU, Alabama, Auburn, Texas, and Georgia.

Stanley Smith is a 6-2, 225 linebacker from Ferriday, Louisiana. He had 96 tackles as a junior (66 solo, 30 assists) with 13 sacks, and 17 tackles for loss. He has camped at Alabama, LSU, and Louisiana Tech. He benches 340, squats 470, and power cleans 275. He has a 3.0 GPA with a 16 ACT. He is focused on LSU, Alabama, Texas A&M, Mississippi State, Louisiana Lafayette, SMU, Southern Miss, and Louisiana Tech.

Brandon Downing is a 6-2, 235, 4.80 inside linebacker from Clarksdale, Mississippi. He led his team as a junior with 137 tackles and an interception, while his senior year he had 127 tackles (19 against South Panola). He benches over 300, has a 2.65 GPA, and has scored 15 on the ACT. He is listing LSU, Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Auburn, Southern Miss, and Alabama.

There are also two junior college players being mentioned with Bama.

Zach Fletcher is a 6-3, 195, 4.5 wide receiver from City College in San Francisco, California. He is originally from Lawrence County High School in Moulton. He led the conference in touchdowns as he had 45 receptions for 1,057 yards and 15 touchdowns. Alabama, Florida, Washington, and UCLA are getting a visit.

Donald Clark is a 6-6, 240, 4.8 tight end from Fort Scott Community College in Kansas. Originally from Boca Raton, Florida, Donald is a December graduate who was red-shirted in junior college and has three years to play three years. He signed with Missouri out of high school and is considering the Tigers, along with Alabama and Miami.

# BAMA RECRUITING

**Visits • Leanings • Commitments**

**We talk to the players and report to you where they are going, leaning & signing  
24 Hours Per Day**

**(press slot 2) (PREP)  
1-900-370-7737**

**Must be 18 years old**

**\$1.79 Per Minute**



# More Future Players Announced

by Donna Fromme

## New facilities play a part in success of some sports

All college sports except football are now able to add new signees in an early November signing period. We announced a number of those last month, including three new signees for the men's basketball program (guard Earnest Shelton of Memphis, guard Maurice "Mo" Williams of Jackson, Mississippi, and forward Kei Madison of Columbiana).

However, while there is much attention on men's basketball in recruiting, other sports are sometimes slower to report new signees. That's because a school cannot announce a signee until the signed papers from the student-athlete are received by the university. As a result, some early Alabama signees in sports other than men's basketball were not announced last month.

We had previously announced women's basketball signees Donyel Wheeler of Birmingham and Katy Sipe of Hillsboro, Tennessee. However, Coach Rick Moody also added Mivvie Strickland to the Crimson Tide women's basketball team in November.

A 6-1 forward from Vestavia Hills High School in Birmingham, Strickland was a second team 6A all-state selection last year. She averaged 15.1 points per game and is considered one of the state's top senior prospects. She participated in the Alabama prep all-star game for underclassmen last year and was one of the top rebounders in the game. At Vestavia Hills, she played for highly-successful Coach Fran Braasch. Mivvie's father, Billy, was a 1970 football letterman at Alabama.

"Mivvie is another young lady who is not only a superb athlete but also a great student," said Moody. "She plays in the post in high school, but we project her on the wing for us. She is very athletic and is an outstanding leaper. Mivvie is a hard worker and a very intense player. She is definitely an excellent addition for our program."

Men's Golf Coach Dick Spybey added All-America Clint Provost, a senior at Florida's Gulf Breeze High School. Provost is an American Junior Golf Association All-America who competed in the Rolex All-America tournament. Provost is currently ranked 14th in the country among junior players by *Golf Week*/Sagarin

Rankings. This fall, he competed in the Florida High School Championship, the country's largest high school event, and finished fifth. Provost's resume includes several tournament victories as well as national experience.

"We're very pleased to have Clint sign with us," said Spybey. "He's the kind of high profile junior player who we always strive to get. We knew that the addition of our new golf facilities would attract the top players in the country and this certainly is evidence of that. Clint's experience and athletic ability certainly will help our team next year but should also send a positive message about the future of Alabama golf."

This year Alabama's men's and women's golf teams will be practicing and playing at the new Capstone Club and both Spybey and Women's Coach Betty Palmer have commented on the importance having the facility will be in recruiting.

Volleyball coach Judy Green had previously announced the addition of Jennifer Cusimano of Tuscaloosa. Also choosing the Crimson Tide for college volleyball are Erin Heffner and Kenna Milner.

"All three of these players are outstanding athletes," said Green. "They are all highly competitive and well-rounded student-athletes. This is a very impressive class to sign during the early period. I am looking forward to having all three of these young women join our program."

Heffner is a 6-0 outside hitter from R. Nelson Snider High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She led her team to the Final Four this past season and was named all-state. As a member of the Munciana Club team she led her squad to a top five finish at the under-17 national tournament. Heffner is also a standout basketball player and track athlete at Snider. "Erin is definitely one of the top outside hitter prospects," Green said. "She is extremely strong and hits the volleyball with a lot of force. Erin has the ability to finish plays and is a great blocker. She is a good addition for our team."

Milner, a 5-8 setter from Crittenden, Kentucky, prepped at Notre Dame Academy in Louisville, Kentucky. She helped lead Notre Dame to a runner-up finish at the state tournament this past season. An all-state selection, Milner also earned All-America honors at the Junior Olympics last summer. She helped guide her club team, KIAV, to a top five finish at the national event. "Kenna is a highly competitive player," said Green. "She is an outstanding ball-handler with extremely quick feet. She has a

tremendous knowledge of the game. Kenna has the type of personality and leadership qualities needed for a setter."

The Crimson Tide finished the 2000 season with a 22-8 overall record and an 11-4 mark in the SEC. The Tide also earned its first ever SEC Western Division title. But Alabama lost six seniors.

Softball Coach Patrick Murphy had announced two signees in the early period in Casey Cockrum of Tuscaloosa and Jaclyn Wilkins of Miami, Florida. But that was just the tip of the iceberg. Bama added five more softball stars in the early signing period.

The Tide will also welcome Ashley Courtney, Emily Currie, Deasy Phillips, Leah White and Jennifer Wright. Murphy gave particular credit to his assistant coaches, Alyson Habetz and Vann Studeman, for the recruiting success. He said, "This was the first year we were able to use the new stadium as a recruiting tool and it definitely played a huge part in the process."

Courtney, from Vero Beach, Florida, is an all-state performer for Sebastian River High School. She has also been named first team All-Space Coast for the past three years.

Currie is from Huntsville, where she attends Madison High School. She helped lead her high school team to the 1A-2A state championship last season, the first state championship in any sport in school history. She has been named to the *Huntsville Times* All-Metro Team each of the last four years, while being named *Huntsville Times* Super All-Metro Player of the Year her sophomore season.

Phillips, a speedster from Katy, Texas, attended Mayde Creek High School in Houston, Texas. Phillips has been all-district all three years in high school winning first team honors her sophomore and junior seasons. She also set the school stolen base record last season.

White is from Grayson, Georgia, where she attends South Gwinnett High School. White has earned all-state honorable mention the past two seasons, while being named the 2000 Offensive Player of the Year for South Gwinnett High School.

Wright is from Brentwood, Tennessee, where she attends Ezell-Harding High School in Antioch. Wright has been named all-state for the past four seasons. Her father, Michael Wright, played football and baseball for the Vanderbilt Commodores and then played at the professional level for the Cincinnati Bengals and the Detroit Tigers.

The seven recruits marks the largest freshman class in the history of Alabama softball.





# Go with a proven winner!

*When it comes to printing and promotional products EBSCO Media is always ahead of the other team. Call us. We'll help you win at your game.*

**1•800•765•0852**



**EBSCO MEDIA**



# BAMA SCORECARD

## Kermit Koenig

Kermit Koenig, an assistant coach on the Alabama men's basketball staff in 1997-98 and a member of the athletic department's Tide Pride and athletic development staff since the spring of 1998, died December 5 at DCH Regional Medical Center in Tuscaloosa. He was 45.

Koenig, a father of two, was originally diagnosed with nasal phlogio, a form of cancer in the nasal cavity, in September 1997 as his career as an assistant coach at Alabama was just beginning. His battle against the disease led him to become an advocate and popular speaker for the American Cancer Society and particularly the Coaches vs. Cancer campaign where basketball fans pledge and donate money to the American Cancer Society in the name of their favorite teams.

His illness caused him to retire from the sport and coaching career he loved. He once said, "The greatest reward in coaching comes when the player comes back and tells you, 'Coach, I'm understanding now all the things that you used to tell me and I appreciate what all you have done for me over the years.' That's the reward....It makes all the difference in the world. It makes you believe that what you are doing is important, that it is influencing lives in a positive way. You're not going to make a bunch of money. And you're not going to win a bunch of championships. Don't misunderstand me: the championships are nice. But seeing kids do well and make better out of themselves—that's what will be remembered in the long run."

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Koenig was born on January 15, 1955. He received his 1973 degree in history and sociology from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, where he played guard on the basketball team, and a master's degree in education from Mississippi State University in 1986. His basketball coaching career began as head coach of Anderson County High School in Kentucky where he stayed from 1981-84. He moved up to the collegiate coaching level at Mississippi State where he served as graduate assistant coach from 1984-86, working alongside current LSU head coach John Brady.

In 1986 Koenig was named head coach at Southwest Mississippi Junior College. His longest tenure, however, would be at Mississippi College where he was an assistant coach from 1988-97. David Hobbs hired him as an assistant on his Alabama staff in July of 1997.

Koenig is survived by his wife, Sharron, and two daughters, Katie, 12, and Kelly, 10, and his father, Kenneth Koenig, of Louisville.

## Hays Ends Career

Saying he is "sick and tired of being sick and tired", Alabama fifth year senior center

Jeremy Hays, the Southeastern Conference's rebounding leader in 1999, has confirmed that persistent health problems have forced him to give up basketball.

"I've been praying about this decision for about four or five months," said Hays who was diagnosed with a benign tumor in his right leg just as he was fully recovering from ACL surgery in his left knee that caused him to redshirt last season. "It's not a decision I've made over the last two or three games. It's not something I made as an issue regarding playing time. That's not it at all. The majority of it is my health. I've been struggling through, just trying to push through it and trying to explore every option medically. At this point I've explored every medical option they gave me. This has been going on for six months, and there is absolutely no improvement in my right leg. It's not allowing me to be competitive even at the level of teams we're playing now, and I just don't foresee myself as being able to be competitive in the SEC or being able to play without this stabbing pain. I've just been these past six and a half months trying everything, anything from braces to lasers to whatever you name it to get well, including going to Birmingham three times a week for the last three weeks for laser treatment, and I have just had no improvement. The pain continues to bother me. Just walking to class. Walking downstairs. The pain is excruciating"

Hays says the decision to leave the team that he believes will still be playing when the postseason rolls around in March was a difficult one. "I'm definitely going to miss my teammates. They're not just basketball players that I played with. They're my close friends," said Hays who graduated with a degree in business in May and was working on a second degree. "I love this university. It's done a lot for me. It's gotten me a college education. I'm the first person in my family to graduate from college, and that's all because of basketball. I'm thankful that basketball has taken me this far. This university is the place God blessed me to attend, and, should God bless me and Dina with kids, I would love for them to attend college here because it's been such a great experience for me."

After tearing his ACL in November 1999 after playing in four games, Hays made his comeback from knee surgery only to begin feeling pain in his right shin in June. It is a benign tumor attached to the bone of his tibia. Removing it would require some of the bone to be removed and, Hays was advised, might take up to two years to recover from enough to play basketball again.

## Smiths Are Stressed

Basketball players named Smith at Alabama in recent weeks were under some stress. Both men's team guard Demetrius Smith and women's team forward Sparkle

Smith were put out of action due to stress fractures.

Demetrius suffered a stress fracture in his foot in late November and had surgery to place a pin in the foot. He was able to return to action when Alabama met North Texas in the Coors Classic in Mobile. Smith, a native of Hogansville, Georgia, played only in two exhibition games before reporting the pain.

Sparkle, a junior, has a stress fracture in her lower left leg and had surgery in mid-December to place a rod in the leg to help it heal. She is expected to be out of the Tide lineup for four to six weeks, until mid- or late-January, while recovering from the injury.

A 5-11 native of Detroit, Michigan, Sparkle was leading the Crimson Tide in rebounding and ranked third in the SEC at 8.6 rebounds a game. Of her 69 rebounds, 34 have been on the offensive end. She was also averaging 7.8 points per game and is one of the team's best defensive players.

## Hall Of Famers

The Alabama Sports Hall of Fame has not been known for diversity. For years it has been criticized for ignoring the achievements of basketball figures. In its first 32 years there were 210 inductions, only eight of them from basketball. But this year three of the seven new members are former basketball stars, including two former Alabama standouts. Jerry Harper was chosen in the Old Timers Category, while Wendell Hudson was selected in the Modern Category. Harper led Alabama's famous Rocket Eight (1955-56) team and was the only Tide player to average over 20 points per game for his career. His rebounding record of 18.1 per game for four years is still a Southeastern Conference record. Hudson was the first African-American to receive an athletic scholarship to Alabama (1969) and was SEC Most Valuable Player in both 1972 and 1973.

Two former Alabama football players were also selected for induction. They are ex-Tide linebackers Woodrow Lowe and Derrick Thomas. Lowe was an All-America for three years (1973-75). Thomas, who was killed in an automobile accident last winter, was winner of the Butkus Award as the nation's finest college linebacker in 1988 and is considered one of the greatest linebackers in NFL history.

The induction banquet will be at the Sheraton Birmingham February 24, 2001.

## All-SEC

Center Paul Hogan and linebacker Saleem Rasheed were named to the 2000 All-SEC Football Team as voted on by the league's 12 head coaches.

Hogan, a senior from Valdosta, Georgia, was a repeat winner after winning First-Team All-SEC honors in 1999. Hogan was 2000



First-Team selection. Rasheed, a sophomore from Birmingham, was named Second Team All-SEC this season.

Hogan appeared in all 11 games for the Crimson Tide this season as the starting center and played in 45 games in his four-year career. He made his first career start for the Tide as a freshman in 1997 and started 37 games at center for the Crimson Tide.

Hogan is the Crimson Tide first offensive lineman to be named to the Coaches All-SEC squad in consecutive years since center Tobie Shiels was named to the Coaches All-SEC squad in 1992-93.

Rasheed appeared in all 11 games and was the team's fourth leading tackler with 81 stops (42 solos). He also added four tackles for losses of 15 yards, eight quarterback pressures, and one pass deflection. Rasheed had three double-figure tackle games, including a career-high 12 tackles against both South Carolina and Tennessee. He added 10 tackles against Arkansas.

#### **Drafted**

The Alabama women's softball team has accomplished a lot over the past few seasons. December 2 was another first for the team.

Senior All-American first baseman Ginger Jones was selected 11th overall by the Tampa Bay FireStix in the Women's Professional Softball League draft while senior catcher Kelley Askew was selected 21st overall by the Akron Racers.

Jones said she had hoped to be picked by Tampa Bay, while Askew said being drafted was "completely unexpected."

Jones led the SEC in home runs (17) and runs batted in (69) last season, while Askew had five home runs, drove in 24 runs, and did not commit an error.

They will join their professional teams following this spring's Alabama season.

#### **An Evening With Tommy Lasorda**

Tommy Lasorda, who twice managed the Los Angeles Dodgers to World Series championships and who coached the United States baseball team to the Gold Medal in the 2000 Summer Olympics, will host a special event in Tuscaloosa.

"An Evening With Tommy Lasorda" will be held at the Ferguson Ballroom on the campus of The University at 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 16. Lasorda will be the featured speaker at the dinner and auction. The event will also include Coach Jim Wells introducing the Alabama baseball team and Coach Patrick Murphy introducing the Tide softball team.

For ticket information call Alyson Habetz at (205) 348-7992.

#### **Father-Son Success**

Alabama sophomore golfer Wesley Pate and his father, former Tide and PGA star Jerry Pate, participated in this year's Office Depot Father-Son Challenge at the Ocean Club Golf Course on Paradise Island in the Bahamas. The annual event features former and current PGA Tour players and their sons in a special tournament.

Although the elder Pate, a former United States Open and United States Amateur champion, has not been competitive for a number of years because of a shoulder injury, the Tide duo did quite well, finishing eighth overall among the 16 father-son teams with a score of 126 in the two-day best ball format.

Raymond Floyd and his son defeated Johnny Miller and his son in sudden death to win the event after both teams finished at 122. Other pro fathers participating with their sons and their scores were Dave Stockton (124), Bob Charles (124), Larry Nelson (125), Jack Nicklaus (125), Craig Stadler (125), Gary Player (127), Hubert Green (128), Hale Irwin (129), Tom Kite (130), Tom Watson (130), Tom Weiskopf (131), Billy Casper (131) and Lee Trevino (133).

#### **Tide Golfer Ranked**

Nick Rousey, a junior on the Alabama men's golf team, is ranked 24th in the latest Mastercard Collegiate Golf Rankings following fall competition. The rankings are administered by the College Golf Foundation.

Rousey, a Pensacola, Florida, native had a 71.13 stroke average after playing all five tournaments the Crimson Tide participated in this fall. He finished among the top ten in all five tournaments. Rousey's best finish has been five-under-par at the Hillman Robbins Memorial Intercollegiate in Memphis where he finished second after posting round scores of 70-69-72-211. He finished tenth at four under par at Alabama's Jerry Pate National which features a field that includes the nation's top-ranked teams, and shot even par in two other tournament appearances.

Alabama's golf team is idle until it picks up its spring season schedule, which begins February 10-11 at the University of Florida's Gator Invitational.

#### **Tennis Duo Ranked**

The Alabama women's doubles team of Dominique Glinzler and Emmanuelle Berard are 37th in the latest Intercollegiate Tennis Association rankings.

Glinzler, a senior from South Africa, and Berard, a freshman from France, combined to go 2-1 for the fall. All three of their matches played together were in Alabama's prestigious tournament, the Roberta Alison Fall Classic.

At the Roberta Alison, Glinzler-Berard defeated Annie Rapp and Sarah Borwell of Houston as well as Martina Ondrejкова and Viktoria Stoklasova of South Alabama. Their only loss was to Joyce Bergman and Julie Morris of Tulane.

The Alabama women's tennis team starts its spring schedule January 20 hosting Tennessee-Chattanooga.

#### **Volleyball Honors**

Alabama volleyball senior Michelle Green garnered another postseason honor when she was named to the All South Region team by the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

Green, a 5-10 outside hitter from Rolla, Missouri, became the first Alabama player to earn all-region honors twice in a career. She was also named to the squad last season. Green's selection to the team puts her on the AVCA All-America ballot.

A two-time All-SEC first teamer, Green finished her playing career with the Tide as the program's all-time leader in kills and total attempts. She also finished second in career digs and ranked among the all-time leaders in service aces.

She joins former Tide standout Nina Foster (1995) as the only other Alabama player to garner regional recognition. This year's South Region team was dominated by SEC players as 11 of the 12 honorees playing for league schools.

Additionally, Green achieved another first in her career becoming the Tide's first Verizon Academic All-America in an announcement by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Green posted a 3.84 GPA in secondary education in earning the prestigious honor. She joins six other student-athletes on the list of first-team honorees. Green becomes the first Alabama volleyball player to garner this recognition. She is a three-time Academic All-SEC selection.

The Verizon Academic All-American team is selected by a vote of the 1,800-member CoSIDA. Eligible student-athletes must be a starter or key reserve and maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.20. CoSIDA has been selecting its Academic All-America teams since 1952.

#### **Soccer Assistant**

Alabama had a disappointing season last fall. Not just in football, but also in what is known worldwide as football, and which is known in Tuscaloosa as Crimson Tide women's soccer. And Bama Head Soccer Coach Don Staley is doing what he can to get his team back among the top powers in the SEC. One step is the hiring of Rena Richardson as an assistant coach.

Richardson spent the last two seasons at the University of Louisiana-Monroe, where she started and developed a competitive program. Prior to ULM, she was an assistant coach at Texas A&M University, where she spent two seasons helping coach the Aggies to the NCAA Tournament both years. Before that, she was the head coach at Hardin-Simmons University for two seasons.

The Crimson Tide is looking to jump start its offense after scoring only 16 goals in its final 17 games of the 2000 season.

Along with her collegiate experience, Richardson brings in various impressive credentials. She will obtain her 'A' coaching license in January. She has been actively involved in the Olympic Development Program, serving as an assistant coach in Texas and the state head coach in Louisiana.

Richardson will join Assistant Nikki Smith and Student Assistant Amy Peja, who will work primarily with the goalkeepers, in filling out Staley's staff.



# 2000-2001 Alabama Winter Sports Schedules

## Men's Basketball

UA/ Date	Opponent	Opp./ CST
63	Global Sports (Exh.)	57
95	Athletes In Action (Exh.)	87
92	Troy State	64
110	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	63
100	Louisville (Fox Sports TV)	71
107	Grambling	61
68	Wofford	64

73	Akron @ Birmingham	59
94	North Texas @ Mobile	55

**Puerto Rico Holiday Classic @ San Juan**  
Dec. 20 Northern Iowa  
(Subsequent games to be determined. Other teams are Clemson, Florida Atlantic, Cincinnati, Youngstown State, American University-Puerto Rico, Washington)

Dec. 30	Alabama State	7:00
Jan. 2	Southeast Louisiana	7:00
Jan. 6	@ LSU (J-P TV)	12:30 or 3:00
Jan. 9	@ Tennessee (ESPN)	8:00
Jan. 13	Mississippi State (SEC TV)	5:00
Jan. 17	Ole Miss (J-P TV)	7:00
Jan. 20	@ Arkansas (SEC TV)	4:00
Jan. 23	Kentucky (ESPN)	8:00
Jan. 27	Auburn	7:00
Jan. 31	@ Vanderbilt	TBA
Feb. 3	LSU	7:00
Feb. 7	@ Mississippi State	7:00
Feb. 10	Georgia	7:00
Feb. 14	South Carolina	7:00
Feb. 17	Ohio State (CBS)	2:30
Feb. 21	@ Auburn	TBA
Feb. 24	@ Florida (J-P TV)	Noon
Feb. 28	Arkansas (J-P TV)	7:00
March 3	@ Ole Miss	TBA
March 8-	SEC Tournament	TBA
March 11	@ Nashville	

## Men's Swimming

Date/ UA Score	Opponent	Time (CT)/ Opp. Score
Oct. 6	SEC Sectional	Second
127	Florida	110
128.5	@ LSU	169.5
109.5	Auburn	184.5
Nov. 30-	U.S. Open @ Auburn	3rd
Dec. 2		
Dec. 1-3	Bama Diving Invite	All Day
Dec. 2-3	Bama Open	All-Day
Jan. 6	@ Georgia	1:00
Jan. 19	Florida State	1:00
Jan. 20	Clemson	1:00
Feb. 3	South Carolina	1:00
Feb. 21-24	SEC Championships	All Day
Mar. 3	Last Chance @ Auburn	TBA
Mar. 9-11	NCAA Diving Zones @ Athens	
Mar. 22-	NCAA Championships	
Mar. 24	@ College Station, Tex.	All Day
Mar. 27-	USS National Championships	
April 2	@ Austin, Texas	All Day
April 6-	U.S. Diving Zone	
April 8	@ Orlando	All Day
April 17-	U.S. Diving Championships	
April 22	@ Bloomington, Ind.	All Day

## Women's Basketball

UA/ Date	Opponent	Opp./ CST
89	Uralmash BC, Russia (Exh.)	69
109	SBC Prerov, Czech. (Exh.)	61
66	@ Samford	42
64	Tulane	63
Illinois-Chicago Thanksgiving Tourney		
76	California	63
73	Illinois-Chicago	43

53	@ South Alabama	46
70	@ Belmont	67
65	Memphis	55
54	Michigan State (ESPN)	53

**Sun Splash @ Nassau, Bahamas**  
Dec. 20 Creighton 6:00  
Dec. 21 Eastern Michigan or Oklahoma State 6:00 or 8:00  
**St. Peter's Holiday @ Jersey City, N.J.**  
Dec. 29 Massachusetts 4:30  
Dec. 30 Fairleigh Dickinson or St. Peter's 4:30 or 6:30

Jan. 4	Alabama A&M	7:00
Jan. 7	@ Georgia	TBA
Jan. 11	Auburn	7:00
Jan. 14	South Carolina	2:00
Jan. 18	Ole Miss	7:00
Jan. 21	@ Mississippi State	2:00
Jan. 25	@ Kentucky	6:00
Jan. 28	@ Ole Miss	2:00
Feb. 1	Arkansas	7:00
Feb. 4	Tennessee	2:00
Feb. 8	@ LSU	7:00
Feb. 11	@ Auburn	2:00
Feb. 18	@ Vanderbilt	2:00
Feb. 22	Georgia	7:00
Feb. 25	Florida	2:00
March 1-	SEC Tournament	
March 4	@ Memphis	TBA

## Women's Swimming

Date/ UA Score	Opponent	Time (CT)/ Opp. Score
Oct. 6	SEC Sectional	Second
102	Florida	136
173	@ LSU	123
112	Auburn	186
Nov. 30-	U.S. Open @ Auburn	5th
Dec. 2		
Dec. 1-3	Bama Diving Invite	All Day
Dec. 2-3	Bama Open	All-Day
Jan. 6	@ Georgia	1:00
Jan. 19	Florida State	1:00
Jan. 20	Clemson	1:00
Feb. 3	South Carolina	1:00
Feb. 21-24	SEC Championships	All Day
Feb. 25	Last Chance	10:00 a.m.
Mar. 9-11	NCAA Diving Zones @ Athens	
Mar. 15-	NCAA Championships	
Mar. 17	@ Long Island, N.Y.	All Day
Mar. 27-	USS National Championships	
April 2	@ Austin, Texas	All Day
April 6-	U.S. Diving Zone	
April 8	@ Orlando	All Day
April 17-	U.S. Diving Championships	
April 22	@ Bloomington, Ind.	All Day

## Gymnastics

Date	Opponent	Time (CST)
Jan. 6	Super Six Challenge (Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Stanford, Michigan, Penn State)	6:00
Jan. 12	Auburn	7:00
Jan. 19	@ Florida	6:00
Jan. 28	Cal-State Fullerton, UCLA @ Los Angeles	2:00
Feb. 2	LSU	7:00
Feb. 9	Auburn @ Birmingham	TBA
Feb. 16	Georgia	7:00
Feb. 24	Kentucky	7:00
March 3	@ Georgia	6:30
March 17	Penn State, Rutgers, Cornell @ State College, Pa.	6:00
March 23	SEC Championships @ Birmingham	TBA
April 7	NCAA Region IV	6:00
April 19-	NCAA Championships	
April 21	@ Athens, Ga.	

## Men's Indoor Track

Date	Event
Jan. 20	SEC Four-Way @ Baton Rouge (Alabama, Mississippi State, Auburn, LSU)
Jan. 26-27	@ Arkansas
Feb. 3	@ Florida
Feb. 9-10	@ Iowa State
Feb. 24-25	SEC Championships @ Lexington
March 2-3	USATF @ Atlanta
March 10-11	NCAA Championships @ Fayetteville

## Women's Indoor Track

Date	Event
Jan. 13	Purple Tiger @ Baton Rouge
Jan. 20	SEC Four-Way @ Baton Rouge (Alabama, Mississippi State, Auburn, LSU)
Feb. 27	Illinois Invitational @ Champaign, Ill.
Feb. 9-10	Virginia Tech Invitational @ Blacksburg
Feb. 24-25	SEC Championships @ Lexington
March 2	Florida Last Chance @ Gainesville
March 10-11	NCAA Championships @ Fayetteville



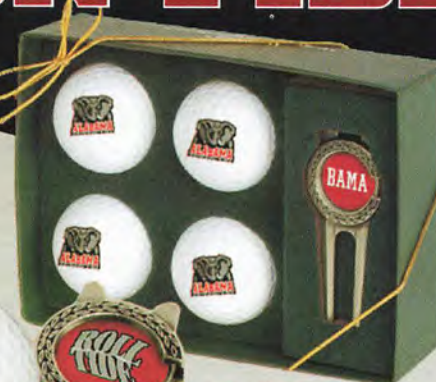


# ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE™



## THE COMPETITOR

BY SUN TIME



## 4-BALL GIFT SET

BY LINKSWALKER



LADIES'

MEN'S

## THE MALLET PUTTER

BY LINKSWALKER



## THE EXECUTIVES

BY SUN TIME

ITEM	QTY	COST	SUBTOTAL	\$5.00 S&H PER ITEM	AL RESIDENTS ADD % 6 SALES TAX	TOTAL
"Bama Competitor" Watch		\$69 <sup>95</sup>				
"Bama Executive" Watch		\$149 <sup>95</sup>				
"Bama Mallet Putter"		\$69 <sup>95</sup>				
"Bama 4 Ball Gift Set"		\$21 <sup>95</sup>				



MAIL CHECK OR MONEYORDER TO:  
 "BAMA MAGAZINE"  
 P.O. BOX 866104  
 TUSCALOOSA, AL 35486-0054  
 PHONE ORDER: 1-800-713-2261



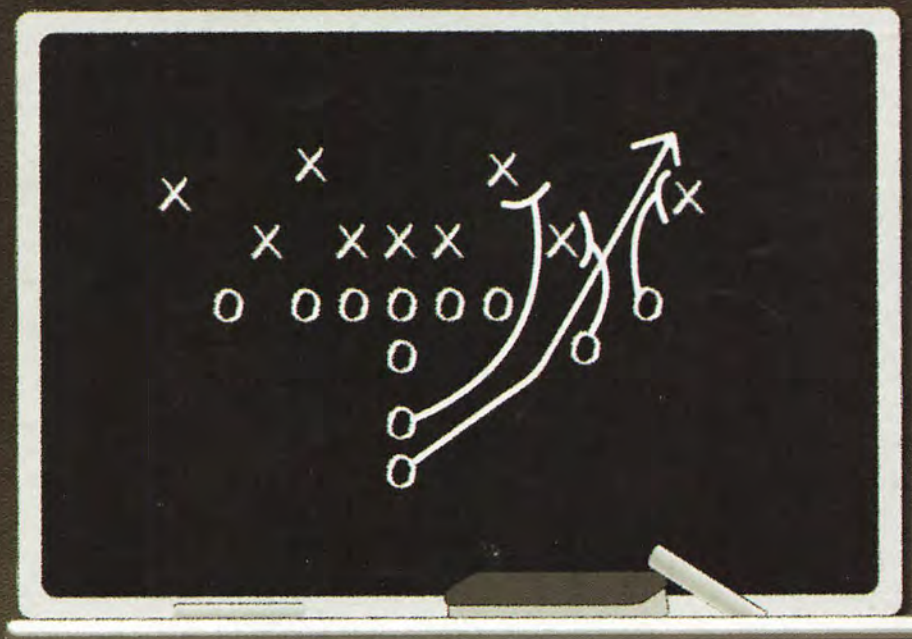
SEND TO \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET ADDRESS (NOT P.O. Box) \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 VISA ☐ MC ☐ ACCT # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP \_\_\_\_\_

BAM 004

(ALLOW 4-6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY)



# MAKE THE BIG PLAY...



**The Magazine For The Crimson Tide Football Fan.  
The Magazine For You. Month After Month 'BAMA Brings You The  
Inside Scoop On Crimson Tide Football. Not Just The Headlines.**

**B**ama Magazine has been giving Alabama fans the inside story on all aspects of Crimson Tide Football since 1979. Readers get the facts and figures, but also get the story behind the story. We profile the stars and the stars-to-be, coaches, and even the stars of yesteryear as we remember Alabama tradition. And for the best and most accurate recruiting information, nothing compares.

A subscription brings you 10 full-color magazines and 14 newsletters mailed first class.

We don't stop with football season, either. Keep up with all Alabama sports, August through May. Great gift idea, too!

Make the big play to get on the inside of Crimson Tide football. Return the coupon or for immediate service, just call toll-free **1-800-713-2261.**

**PLEASE SEND ME ONE YEAR (24 ISSUES)  
OF 'BAMA FOR ONLY \$35.00.**

Total amount enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ subscriptions. Alabama residents add \$2.00 sales tax to each order. Overseas add \$10.00 each order.

☐ Payment Enclosed

Make checks payable to:

☐ Mastercard

**'BAMA Magazine**  
P.O. Box 866104  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486

☐ Visa

Bank Card# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*Please Print*

TO: (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

(Address) \_\_\_\_\_

(City) \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ New Subscription \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

*If This Is A Gift,*

Gift From: (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

(Address) \_\_\_\_\_

(City) \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_